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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 February Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Group Asks UN To Discuss PLO Office *[WAKH]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Denies Palestinians To Meet With Shultz *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
'Arafat Receives Soviet Envoy, Gorbachev Letter *[Sanaa VOP]* 2

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Cooperation Pact Signed With UK 18 Feb 3
Brahimi Makes State Visit to Czechoslovakia *[cross-reference]* 3

Egypt

Soviet Envoy Polyakov Continues Visit, Talks 3
Meets With Mubarak 18 Feb 3
Conveys Gorbachev Message 3
Meets With 'Abd al-Majid 3
Confers With Ghali 18 Feb 3
More on Australian Foreign Minister's Visit 3
Signs Trade, Nuclear Accords 3
Confers With 'Abd al-Majid 4
Departs for Luxor 19 Feb 4
Ghali, Delegation Leave For Addis Ababa 19 Feb 4
'Abd al-Majid Returns From 1-Day Visit to Iraq 4
Police, Fundamentalists Clash; 14 Arrested *[AFP]* 4
Further on Revolution Organization Indictments 4
Shultz Trip Sole Aim To 'Satisfy Israel' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Feb]* 6
Tabah Panel Arbiters Conduct On-Site Tour 6
Israel Blamed for Attack on Palestinian Ship 7
'Abd al-Majid on Egypt's Policy, Arab Issues *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 7
Al-Baz Views Aims of Mubarak's Initiative 10
Dailies View U.S. Moves, Israeli Repression 11
Comparison of Mubarak's Police Academy Speech 12

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi 'Special Message' to Palestinians *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 12
Saudi King Cables Al-Qadhdhafi on Surgery 15
Algeria's Bendjedid Cables 15
JANA on 'Zionist Terrorists,' Western Silence 15
JANA Editor Responds to Moroccan Papers 16

Morocco

King Hassan Views Egyptian Ties, PLO, Mahgreb *[MENA]* 16
Abbadi Returns From UK Visit, Discusses Talks 18

Sudan

20 Killed in Border Attack by Ethiopian Tribe 18
Bashir 'Umar Denies Exchange Rate Negotiations 18
Television Broadcast To Cover 'Whole Country' 18

Tunisia

President Receives Italian Military Commanders 18
Mestiri Discusses Ties With Egypt, Maghreb *[MENA]* 19
Financial Negotiations With France Deadlocked *[Paris]* 19

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Intra-Gulf Affairs

'Disguised' Iranian Gunboats Ply Gulf Waters *[Paris AFP]* 20

Kuwait

Paper Suggests Shultz Discard 'Israeli Coat' 20

PDRY

Reunification Talks With YAR Held 18 Feb 20
Nu'man Receives Soviet Energy Official 21

IRAQ

Air Force Commander Denies Kuwaiti, Saudi Aid 22
USSR's Grinevskiy on Relations, Afghan Issue 22
'Positive Stand' Welcomed 22
Vietnamese Official Discusses Relations *[AL-THAWRAH 14 Feb]* 22
Egyptian Minister's Predeparture Statement 23
Communique No 3,026 Details 17-18 Feb Combat 24

ISRAEL

Syria Agrees to Golan Heights 'Arrangements' *[HADASHOT 19 Feb]* 25
'Arafat Authorizes 7 Palestinians To Meet Shultz 25
'Arafat Group Fails To Direct Ship 'Drama' 25
Peres: Relations With UK Labor Party 'Improved' 26
'Differences' Emerge in Shamir-Kinnock Meeting 26
Peres Forms Work Teams for Shultz Visit 26
Peres Supports Leaving Gaza for Peace Process 26
Shamir Rejects Conference, Shortened Autonomy 26
Novik on Soviet Role, United Cabinet Stand 27
Tourism Minister's France, Spain Visits Canceled 28
Peres Office Statement on Likud 'Defamation' *[HA'ARETZ 17 Feb]* 28
Rabin Approves Limited Land for Peace Stance 28
Shin Bet Interrogator of Hamden Faces Trial 29
Steps Taken in Response to Extremists' Call 29
Palestinian Communists Protest 'Forged' Leaflets 29
Fatah Terrorist Sentenced to Life Imprisonment 29
'Central Leadership' of 'Uprising' Analyzed *[HADASHOT 12 Feb]* 29

LEBANON

More on U.S. Kidnapping Victim Lt Col Higgins 35
Kidnappers Want Exchange *[VOL]* 35
Amal Has 'Clues' to Abductors *[AFP]* 35
Earlier Abduction Attempt *[VOL]* 35
Birri: 'Blow' to Resistance 35
Further on Search, Arrests *[VOL]* 35
Amal Detains Six in Tyre *[VOL]* 36
Da'ud Cited on Investigation 36
New Group Claims Abduction *[Jerusalem]* 36
Higgins 'Still in the South' *[VOL]* 36
Hizballah on Arrests, Searches *[RFL]* 36
Aimed at U.S., Not UN *[VOL]* 36
Organization Makes 3 Demands *[VONR]* 37
UNTSO Officers Moved to Al-Naqurah Headquarters *[VOL]* 37
Western Diplomatic Missions Take Precautions *[VOL]* 37
4 Charged in Bombing Attempt on Al-Jumayyil Plane *[VOL]* 37
Al-Jumayyil on Ties With Egypt, Sudan, Syria *[MENA]* 37
Fighting in Beirut; Bomb Dismantled 18 Feb *[VOL]* 38
'Armed Alert' After Forces Member Killed 38

SYRIA

Libyan Secretary Received by Economy Minister 39
Information Minister Receives Ambassadors 39
Al-Asad's Son New Defense Companies Head *[Beirut Voice of Lebanon]* 39

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Envoy Rejects Pakistani Call for Interim Regime *[Hong Kong AFP]* 40
Najibullah, Gorbachev Peace Initiatives Praised 40
Politburo Discusses Domestic Issues, Policies 40
Mas'ud Delivers Speech at Scientific Conference 41
Briefs 41
Soviet Transport Official Visits 41

India

7 Killed, 61 Injured in Punjab Bomb Blasts 42
Foreigners Banned From Rajasthan Border Area 42
Ziaul Haq Remarks 'Totally Unacceptable' 42
Pant Concerned Over Pakistani Naval Build-Up 42
Tripura Government Invokes National Security Act 42
Senior Akali Dal Leader Released From Jail 42
DPRK Prime Minister Continues Visit 43
Holds Talks With Gandhi 43
Gandhi Hosts Dinner 43

Iran

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons 43
Tehran Notes Group Behind Higgins Kidnapping 44
'Okinawa' Begins Moving Out of Persian Gulf 44
UK's Howe Fails To Persuade USSR on Embargo 44
Velayati Assesses Turkish Visit, USSR Ties 44
Roads, Transport Minister Leaves for Turkey 45
IRNA Likens 'Uprising' to Islamic Revolution 45
'Voice of Islamic Revolution' Cited on 'Arafat 46

Commentary on Imam's Recent Ruling 47
Bulgaria's Doynov, Delegation Arrive for Talks 47
Arrival Statement 47
Trade Talks Open 48
Meets With Foreign Minister 48
Meets With Industries Minister 48
Visits Tabriz 49
Meets With Musavi 49
2d Round of Talks With Nabavi 49
Meets With Oil Minister 49
USSR Envoy Meets With Mines, Metals Official 49
Abedi-Ja'fari in Poland for Economic Session *[cross-reference]* 49
Musavi Inaugurates Casting Plant, University 50
Islamic Guidance Minister Discusses Hajj 50
'Islamic Unity' Conference Communique Detailed 50
Hoof, Mouth Disease Outbreak Reported 51
Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue 52
Communique No 3,116 52
Irbil Deputy Governor Captured 52

Pakistan

Mujahidin Leaders Meet With Ziaul Haq 16 Feb *[Hong Kong AFP]* 52
President on Need for Interim Afghan Government 52
Election Preparations To Take 'About a Year' 53
Briefs 53
Gwadar Harbor Construction 53

Sri Lanka

Main Opposition Party To Boycott Elections *[Hong Kong AFP]* 53
Election Commission Calls For Nominations 53

19 February Middle East and South Asia Review

LD191424 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

The "Oppressed of the World" organization claimed responsibility for kidnapping U.S. Colonel William Higgins in a statement reported by Voice of Lebanon radio 19 February. The statement accused Higgins of being a CIA spy and was accompanied by a photograph of Higgins' identity card. The radio also disclosed that the Amal Movement has detained six people in Tyre in connection with the kidnapping. Amal leader Nabih Birri had earlier stated that he has "information" about the identity of Higgins' kidnappers, Beirut radio noted, and he contended that the recent kidnappings in southern Lebanon were aimed against Amal. An Amal statement carried by the radio likewise described Higgins' abduction as a "cowardly and suspect" action committed by "sinful and suspect hands," adding that Amal will do everything it can to find the U.S. officer and punish the party responsible for the kidnapping.

Al-Qadhdhafi Message to Palestinians

The clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio broadcast a message to Palestinians in the occupied territories from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who lauded the "revolution of stones" and castigated "traitorous reactionary Arab rulers" who have become "guardians for the enemy." He warned the Palestinians to beware the "suspicious moves" by Egypt and Jordan on orders from "imperialism and Zionism" and with financial support from Arab "reactionaries." Al-Qadhdhafi described the Israelis as "barbarians," contending that Hitler has been proved "right" now the secret of the "Zionist octopus" has been exposed to the world.

The Libyan leader also advised the Palestinians on tactics, stating that "there is no need to expose yourselves to danger" as the weapons of "popular rejection, civil disobedience, and secret sabotage are more effective and threatening to the enemy than stones." Armed struggle will be the job of Palestinian fedayeen. He urged Arabs living inside Israel's pre-1967 borders to join the revolt so that it will encompass "all the Palestinian territory from the river to the sea."

Israel

HADASHOT on Syrian Message—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad recently conveyed a message to the Israeli leadership expressing willingness to reach a "political arrangement" in return for an Israeli guarantee to withdraw from the Golan Heights, HADASHOT reported 19 February. The message was reportedly conveyed to Israel by a Jewish businessman living in Switzerland, following a meeting he held with a "high-level" Syrian personality "close" to Al-Asad. HADASHOT added that the message speaks of Syria's agreement to security arrangements that will remove any threat to Israel should it withdraw from the Golan, and it also contains hints of political flexibility on the Palestinian issue.

Shin Bet—The attorney general has decided to press criminal charges against a Shin Bet interrogator in connection with the death of an Arab during interrogation 6 months ago, Jerusalem radio reported. The interrogator is suspected of causing the death of 'Awwad Hamdan through "negligence," the radio noted. Two other Shin Bet operatives face disciplinary action over the affair.

Egypt

Egypt's Revolution Indictment—Following the announcement that the public prosecutor is seeking the death penalty against 11 of 20 defendants in the case of the Egypt's Revolution Organization, MENA reported that Khalid Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, son of the late President al-Nasir, is among the three defendants accused of having "urged and masterminded" the formation of a "gang" dedicated to carrying out "hostile acts against foreign countries which could lead to the severing of political ties" with Egypt. The crimes for which the defendants were indicted include the murder of an Israeli diplomat in August 1985 and the May 1987 attack on U.S. diplomat Dennis Williams. All those in custody have made "detailed confessions" regarding their crimes, MENA pointed out.

Fundamentalists Arrested—According to an AL-AKHBAR report cited by AFP 19 February, 14 Muslim fundamentalists have been arrested in the southern town of Bani Suwayf. The arrests followed a 12 February clash during which a "senior police officer" and other security personnel were wounded.

Gorbachev Message—Soviet envoy Vladimir Polyakov was received by President Husni Mubarak to whom he delivered a message on the Afghan issue from CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, MENA reported. Polyakov also briefed Mubarak on Soviet views regarding the latest developments in the Mideast situation and the Gulf war.

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn received Soviet envoy Oleg Grinevskiy, who conveyed a verbal message from Mikhail Gorbachev regarding the Afghan problem, INA reported. A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by the agency declared that Iraq "welcomes and appreciates" the Soviet stand on Afghanistan. In remarks reported by Voice of the Masses radio, Grinevskiy noted that his talks with Iraqi officials also dealt with UN Resolution No 598 on the conflict with Iran, and he described Soviet-Iraqi relations as "firm and based on mutual confidence."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Group Asks UN To Discuss PLO Office

JN190751 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0720 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] New York, 19 Feb (WAKH)—The Arab group at the United Nations has called on the UN General Assembly to resume its meetings to discuss the crisis between the United States and the United Nations following the U.S. Congress' insistence on closing the PLO office at the United Nations.

The Arab group's request came in a memorandum sent late last night to UN General Assembly President Peter Florin by Karim al-Shukr, Bahrain's permanent representative to the United Nations and head of the Arab group for this month.

The Arab group's request for a meeting of the UN General Assembly comes in implementation of a decision by the Arab group at the end of a long meeting here last Wednesday.

At the end of its discussion of this issue, the UN General Assembly will most probably adopt several measures to tackle this crisis, particularly the formation of a tripartite arbitration committee that will study the issue and make the appropriate decision.

In case the United States rejects the arbitration committee's decision, the committee will be forced to refer this issue to the International Court of Justice.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Denies Palestinians To Meet With Shultz

JN191247 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Regarding Shultz' visit to Israel, the PLO's official spokesman has emphasized there will be no meeting between Shultz and Palestinian personalities from the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the U.S. secretary's visit to Israel.

'Arafat Receives Soviet Envoy, Gorbachev Letter

JN181748 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has received a letter from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

It was delivered last night by Soviet envoy Mikhail [not further identified] who called on Brother Abu 'Ammar in Tunis.

The Palestine news agency, WAFA, added that the meeting, which was also attended by Brother Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, centered on the latest Palestinian developments in light of the popular Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation authorities.

They also discussed American moves against the backdrop of trips to the Mideast by U.S. envoys, including the upcoming visit by George Shultz.

WAFA said the Soviet envoy and 'Arafat also discussed other issues of shared interest and agreed on coordinated moves.

The Soviet official reiterated Moscow's support for the Palestinian people's struggle and revolution led by the PLO.

Algeria

Cooperation Pact Signed With UK 18 Feb

LD190059 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] The work of the Algerian-British joint committee was concluded this evening by signing the minutes of a cooperation agreement. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Algerian side by Mr Belkacem Nabi, minister of energy, chemical and petrochemical industries, who presided over the Algerian side in this session. Mr Alan Clark, British minister for trade, signed on behalf of the British side.

The joint committee, which met for the first time, reviewed during its work the existing economic and trade exchanges. The discussions concentrated on three principal points: developing bilateral trade, economic and financial cooperation, and technical, scientific, and cultural cooperation.

Brahimi Makes State Visit to Czechoslovakia

For Czechoslovak media coverage of the official state visit of Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi, including reports on his meetings with President Gustav Husak, Premier Lubomir Strougal, and CPCZ General Secretary Milos Jakes, see the Czechoslovakia section of the 16 February East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Egypt

Soviet Envoy Polyakov Continues Visit, Talks

Meets With Mubarak 18 Feb

NC181317 Cairo MENA in English 1129 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb 18 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received here today the Soviet envoy Vladimir Polyakov, director of the Middle East Countries Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry. The Soviet ambassador here took part in the meeting.

Conveys Gorbachev Message

NC181849 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message today from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on the Soviet formula for the settlement of the Afghan problem.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, said that President Mubarak received the message today when he met with Soviet envoy Vladimir Polyakov. Polyakov expounded Soviet views on the Middle East problem and the Gulf war on the eve of the anticipated meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister in Moscow.

Meets With 'Abd al-Majid

NC181906 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met this evening with Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

They discussed recent developments in the Middle East region, the situation in the occupied Arab territories, ways of ending the Iraq-Iran war, and the need to hold an international peace conference with the participation of all parties concerned in order to arrive at a just and comprehensive solution of the Palestinian problem. Polyakov arrived in Cairo from Jordan yesterday. He is making a tour of the region with the aim of finding ways of advancing the peace process.

Confers With Ghali 18 Feb

NC181920 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1903 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met this evening with Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, who is currently visiting Cairo. During the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East in light of the ongoing events in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They also examined the various initiatives to convene an international conference, in which all parties concerned would participate, to resolve the Palestinian problem and achieve peace in the region.

More on Australian Foreign Minister's Visit

Signs Trade, Nuclear Accords

NC181558 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received William Hayden, Australian minister of foreign affairs, this afternoon. They discussed ways of bolstering cooperation between Egypt and Australia in the economic, trade, and technical fields. The meeting was attended by Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy; Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Dr Jalal Abu al-Dhahab, minister of supplies.

Dr Sidqi attended the ceremony at which three agreements between Egypt and Australia were signed: the first is in the trade field, the second is in the field of peaceful

application of nuclear energy, and the third concerns the administrative arrangements for cooperation in the field of peaceful application of nuclear energy in the various fields.

Confers With 'Abd al-Majid

NC181926 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1907 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA)—This evening Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs William Hayden, who is currently visiting Cairo. They discussed bilateral ties and ways of strengthening them in all domains. They also reviewed the latest developments in the occupied Arab territories and Egypt's efforts to promote the peace process in the region. During the meeting Hayden stressed his country's condemnation of Israel's repressive measures and the need for action to reach a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem.

Hayden is scheduled to leave Cairo tomorrow for home. During his visit, which began on Tuesday, he was received by President Mubarak and held talks with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Departs for Luxor 19 Feb

NC190728 Cairo MENA in English 0705 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb 19 (MENA)—Australian Foreign Minister William Hayden and his accompanying delegation left here this morning for Luxor, Upper Egypt, on a three-day visit to this renowned tourist city. He will later leave for Israel. Hayden arrived here on Tuesday on an official visit during which he signed three agreements with Egypt covering economic trade and the peaceful use of nuclear energy domains.

Ghali, Delegation Leave For Addis Ababa 19 Feb

NC190642 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA)—An Egyptian delegation led by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Addis Ababa early today to attend the OAU Foreign Ministerial Council meetings which will be held from 21 to 21 February. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid Returns From 1-Day Visit to Iraq

NC181242 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo from Baghdad this morning. He had made a 1-day visit to Iraq during which he delivered a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid stated that his talks with senior Iraqi officials dealt with the current Arab situation and the situation on the Iraqi front.

Police, Fundamentalists Clash; 14 Arrested

NC191004 Paris AFP in English 0957 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb 19 (AFP)—Police has arrested 14 Moslem fundamentalist activists following a clash in southern Egypt last week which left a senior police officer wounded, the semi-official newspaper AL-AKHBAR reported Friday.

An (?unspecified) number of policemen were also wounded in the clashes that erupted last Friday as Moslem worshippers emerged from prayers at a mosque in the town of Bani Suwayf, the newspaper said.

It said that the Egyptian authorities charged the arrested militants of vandalism and obstruction to law enforcement officers.

The newspaper added that police was still searching for several other people suspected of involvement in the incident.

Further on Revolution Organization Indictments

NC181212 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1043 GMT 18 Feb 88

[All names as received]

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA)—Public Prosecutor Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jindi today referred 20 defendants in the case of the Egypt's Revolution Organization to the Higher State Security Court, demanding the death sentence for 11 of them and varied prison sentences, in some cases life imprisonment with hard labor, for the nine others.

The defendants for whom the public prosecutor demanded the death sentence are: Mahmud Nur al-Din 'Ali Sulayman, 47, businessman; Khalid Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, 38, engineer, fugitive; Ahmad 'Isam al-Din al-Sayyid 'Ali Sulayman, 38, owner of the Arab Export and Import Company; Muhyi al-Din 'Adli Rajab, 42, government official in the northern Cairo neighborhood; Ahmad 'Ali Muhammad 'Ali, 38, former officer in the Armed Forces; Nazmi Hasan Sayyid Ahmad, 32, chauffeur; Muhammad 'Ali Sharaf al-Din, 26, unemployed; Sami 'Abd al-Fattah Ahmad Turk, 31, electrician; Jamal 'Abd al-Hafiz Mahmud 'Abd al-Rahman, 30, foreman at a brick factory; Hamid Muhammad Ibrahim Mustafa, 45, former Army officer; and Usamah Ahmad Muhammad Khalil, 32, former master sergeant in the Air Force.

The defendants for whom the prosecutor demanded prison sentences are: Mamduh 'Adli Muhammad Rajab, 40, merchant; Isma'il 'Abd al-Mun'im Isma'il 'Awad, 32, technical supervisor at a brick factory; Ahmad Ibrahim

Ahmad Muhammad, 51, accountant; Isma'il Jamal al-Din al-Sayyid 'Azzam, 50, owner and director of the Nile Commercial Office; Hamdi 'Abd al-Ghaffar al-Marafi, 30, physician; Mukhtar 'Abd al-Hamid Muhammad Yusuf, 56, physician; Jamal Shawqi 'Abd al-Nasir, 34, physician, still at large; Sharif Husayn Mahmud al-Shafi'i, 37, physician; and Mahmud Muhammad Jum'ah, 45, furniture dealer. The prosecution accused the first 11 defendants of having been involved in a criminal undertaking urged and masterminded by the first three defendants, the aim of which was to form a gang to commit murders, forge official documents, and carry out hostile acts against foreign countries which could lead to the severing of political ties between Egypt and these countries.

The prosecutor said that the first and second defendants agreed to form this ring to commit the aforesaid crimes, and that the first defendant reached an agreement with the third and contacted the other defendants to convince them to join the gang.

The prosecution mentioned that on 4 June 1984, in the Al-Ma'adi section of Cairo, the defendants set out to murder Israeli diplomat Tzvi Qidar. Their plan was to kill any of the diplomats or staff of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, so they surveilled their houses, cars, and all their movements. The first, third, fourth, and fifth defendants, armed with guns, drove together in a car bought for this purpose and laid ambush near the residence of some Israeli diplomats.

When Qidar arrived on the scene and got out of his car to go to his house, the defendants drove in front of him, and the first and fifth defendants fired at him with intent to kill, wounding him in the manner referred to in the forensic report. The crime did not achieve its intended goal because the defendants left the scene and the victim received timely medical assistance.

The prosecution mentioned that on 20 August 1985, the defendants, in an act of premeditated murder, killed Israeli diplomat Albert Itrakche. Having decided to kill any of the diplomats or staff of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, and having surveilled their routines, the first, sixth, seventh, and eighth defendants, armed with guns, drove to the Israeli ambassador's house. As soon as Itrakche appeared in his car, they fired at him and killed him, also attempting to murder Ilana Itrakche.

The prosecution stated that the defendants killed Eyti Tal Or in an act of premeditated murder, as they had decided to kill all Israeli diplomats and employees at the Israeli Embassy and at the Israeli wing of the International Cairo Fair. They secured a vehicle for this purpose, in which the first, third, fourth, sixth, and ninth defendants hid. They laid an ambush close to a gate they had earlier surveyed and found to be used by the Israeli employees as an exit from the fair grounds. The defendants were carrying firearms. When they ascertained that their intended victim left the fair grounds accompanied by other people in a car belonging to her country's embassy, that car was intercepted by the first defendant in the defendants' car.

The prosecution stated that the third, fourth, and sixth defendants fired bullets at her using their firearms with the intention of killing her. She sustained fatal injuries as a result of the shooting.

The prosecution added that with full premeditation the defendants also attempted to murder Uri Ziv and David Broya Daymi Yafat. The victims were among the employees working at the fair's Israeli wing. The attempt to murder these two individuals occurred simultaneously with the shooting of Eyti Tal Or, who sustained numerous injuries.

The prosecution further stated in its indictment that on 26 May 1987, the defendants attempted to murder with premeditation U.S. diplomat Dennis Williams. For this purpose they had arranged for a car in which the first, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth defendants lay in ambush in a place they were certain that U.S. Embassy vehicles would pass through.

When a car driven by their intended victim passed through the place, the first defendant intercepted it in the defendants' car, which he was driving. The first, eighth, and ninth defendants then fired bullets at the victim with the intention of killing him. He sustained the injuries which are mentioned in the coroner's report.

The prosecution further stated that in an action linked to this crime, the defendants also attempted with premeditation to murder John Hawk and John Ford. The defendants had the intention of killing all diplomats and employees working at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. During the shooting of Dennis Williams, the defendants wounded these two victims.

Regarding the indictment, the prosecutor said that the defendants acquired explosives, specifying these as defensive-offensive hand grenades with detonators. They also acquired firearms, silencers, automatic rifles, and ammunition without licence.

The prosecution said the acquisition of these weapons was undertaken with the intent of conducting offensive acts against two foreign countries, which could have resulted in the severing of political ties between Egypt and these countries.

The defendants, the prosecution said, murdered and attempted to murder U.S. and Israeli diplomats and citizens, stating that their action threatened the political ties between Egypt and these countries.

The prosecution pointed out that the fifth, tenth, and eleventh defendants, who are answerable to martial law, have committed acts conflicting with the country's domestic and foreign policies. They have done so in connivance with the first through ninth defendants, excluding the fifth.

The second to nineteenth defendants, the prosecution said, were aware of the illegal activities of the first through the eleventh defendants, and conspired with them.

The public prosecutor said that the aim of the group was not to overthrow the regime, but to destabilize the country by marring its ties with certain foreign countries.

The prosecutor added that all of the defendants who have been arrested made detailed confessions of the crimes they have committed. He also mentioned that most of them are drug addicts, and that a copy of the case's file will be referred over for drug prosecution so that charges may be brought against them in this connection. He pointed out that they received funds from inside the country [as received] and used the funds to lease luxurious apartments.

The prosecutor stressed that much of the evidence in the case was compiled through the efforts of Egyptian security organs, pointing out that a request has been made to Interpol to arrest those defendants still at large.

Shultz Trip Sole Aim To 'Satisfy Israel'
PM181611 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Feb 88 p 3

[Article by Mustafa Amin under the rubric "Idea"]

[Text] Israel is playing the role in the region of the gangster who flouts the law: It rejects the unanimous UN Security Council resolutions and ridicules the European Council resolutions demanding the convening of an international conference. The states of the world protest at Israel's barbaric treatment of the boys and girls who launched the uprising—treatment that shocked feelings throughout the world—but Israel continues to defy world anger and orders the burial of Palestinians alive!

Israel is doing all this—despising the feelings of the entire world, ridiculing UN resolutions, scorning international law, and treating the human rights charter with disdain—because it is confident that no one will punish it for such unprecedented attitudes in terms of attacks on the rights of the peoples.

Isreal is taking the opportunity of the U.S. election to commit such stupefying acts because it is confident that neither the ruling Republican Party nor the opposition Democratic Party will be able to say a word that would anger Israel on the grounds that it is the source of power in the United States: It has the ability to fell the candidate it does not want and push forward the candidate who declares his unconditional loyalty to world Zionism. Many congressmen and senators who have responded to their consciences have lost their positions; those who have spoken a word of truth have been confronted and heavily defeated by the American Jews.

Therefore I do not believe that Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to the region will bring any solutions to the Middle East problem, since the objective now is to satisfy Israel, not the Arabs, and to circumvent the international conference rather than convene it. The objective is to shelve the uprising rather than respond to the will of the Palestinian people which the uprising has expressed. Mr George Shultz is not coming here to give; he is coming to take from us. He is not carrying any solutions to our problems but rather carrying a tranquilizing medicine or delayed solutions that will give Israel time until the Israeli [as published] elections are held.

The objective is to persuade the Arabs to ease the war and economic burdens that the United States is bearing in the Iran war. In return for what? In return for an end to the uprising; and in return for our postponing the convening of the international conference, and also in return for bilateral talks replacing an international conference.

For this ingenious plan to succeed, we have to be naive or stupid enough to give everything in return for nothing, to relax our demands while Israel adopts an intransigent position, and to freeze our stands so that President Reagan's administration can win the majority in the next election!

"The Merchant of Venice" is being played once again, but it will not attract any audience.

Tabah Panel Arbiters Conduct On-Site Tour
NC181538 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA)—Members of the Egyptian delegation to the international arbitration panel in charge of the Tabah issue returned to Cairo today after an on-site visit, during which the panel inspected the disputed border markings between Egypt and Israel.

Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent delegate to the UN headquarters in Geneva, has said that this on-site visit was successful because it clarified Egypt's right to Tabah. The president and members of the court saw the Egyptian border markings and saw that there were no Israeli markings.. Al-'Arabi said that the Egyptian delegation to the international arbitration panel concludes that the visit has achieved its purpose.

Yesterday, the international arbitration panel paid an on-site visit to the area, during which it inspected the disputed border markings between Egypt and Israel. The

panel consists of Swede (Gunnar Lamrin) as the president, (Pierre Billet) from France, (Dietrich Shindler) from Switzerland, Dr Hamid Sultan from Egypt, and (Dota Labidos) from Israel.

Israel Blamed for Attack on Palestinian Ship

NC180745 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM writes today that however hard Israel tries to deny its responsibility for the attack on the Palestinian ship of return, there are indications which fully confirm that its organs and services were monitoring the trip. Despite claims by Kahane's organization that it is responsible for blowing up the vessel, circumstances indicate that the incident is the work of intelligence services, AL-AHRAM states.

Israel wanted the explosion to serve as a symbol of its ability to cripple the very concept of "return," whether this concept is embodied in a ship, in UN resolutions, or in an international conference. The attack on the ship of return, therefore, is a political decision which can only be made at the highest echelons of the Israeli Government.

The paper argues that Israel also wanted to confirm the ability of its "long arm" to strike its opponents and adversaries anywhere and at any time. The paper cites Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that the Israeli Government has decided not to allow the PLO to have its way and send a ship to Israeli shores, and that the ship will be stopped "by appropriate means."

All this, the paper concludes, implicates the Government of Israel in the incident, notwithstanding its silence or the masks it hides behind.

'Abd al-Majid on Egypt's Policy, Arab Issues

JN130942 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1742 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid in his office at the Foreign Ministry in Cairo by News Director Anoine Nawfal in the Monte Carlo studio in Paris, carried on the "It Happened Tomorrow" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] President Husni Mubarak recently went on an expanded tour that included a number of Western capitals. Prior to that he went on a Gulf tour. Egypt is moving, and it has the right to claim that the upcoming U.S. effort through Habib, Murphy, and Shultz, as well as the European effort, and perhaps the Soviet effort, are a result Egypt's. However, all this seems to have been carried out without coordination or arrangement. It seems to be a sort of diplomtic chaos. Your Excellency, would you clarify the picture? First, what does Egypt want from all these sides, particialrly the United States?

['Abd al-Majid] First, I, of course, do not agree that it is diplomatic chaos. If it were diplomatic chaos, there would be no need at all for any effort by any side. Rather, it is diplomatic efforts aimed at boosting the peace process in the region and mobilizing all forces seeking to achieve peace and stability. President Husni Mubarak's efforts in the Gulf and in his recent tour were aimed at this. These topics were the basis of his contacts with all heads of state. Egypt strives to achieve a just, comprehensive peace. To achieve this, we hold contacts on all Arab or international levels and with the concerned parties, including our Palestinian brothers, Israel, Jordan, and others.

In fact, what is currently taking place is a result of these efforts. Actually, we cannot confirm that they will succeed. This is because there is no guaranteed success in diplomatic efforts. However, this effort coincides with a complete standstill in the Palestinian question and the Middle East issue. Indeed, we do not believe Egypt will accept a standstill or that the Middle East issue will be considered of low priority. The Middle East issue is currently the focus of all diplomatic circles' attention. Undoubtedly, the Palestinian popular uprising had a major role in boosting this issue. Egypt hails this uprising, as it proves that 20 years of Israeli occuaption have not succeeded in breaking the Palestinian people's resistance. What is happening on the West Bank and Gaza Strip is an alarm bell for the future, as President Husni Mubaak said. The Egyptian efforts and the following U.S. and Arab proposals are all aimed at boosting the peace process and convening an international conference. This is because the only means to solve this problem is an international conference; there is no other means.

[Nawfal] Your excellency, what point does Egypt want the U.S. effort to concentrate on?

['Abd al-Majid] Egypt wants a final settlement. It has been learned that some of the U.S. proposals call for a final settlement. The U.S. effort is aimed at a final settlement, not at issues related to self-rule. The issue of self-rule has ended. A final settlement must take place. This final settlement requires exploratory talks, which are currently taking place, represented by the U.S. contacts with Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and European countries, as well as by what Egypt and His Majesty King Husayn are doing.

[Nawfal] As an expert at the United Nations, do you think there is a possibility for U.S.-UN cooperation and a return to international legitimacy, taking into consideration that there is a U.S. effort independent of the United Nations and, on the other hand, efforts by others—Europe, the Untied Nations, and Egypt?

['Abd al-Majid] Yes. This is, of course, one of the objectives of Egyptian policy. We will receive the secretary general's representative, who will arrive in Cairo within days, and will hold talks with him. We informed

the United Nations through our UN permanent representative of recent developments in this regard. You know that Egypt is eager to have an international conference convened within the framework of the UN Security Council and with the participation of the five permanent member states.

[Nawfal] When King Husayn and President Mubarak speak before foreign officials, do they use the same statements with the same tone?

['Abd al-Majid] I believe there is absolute understanding. Egyptian and Jordanian viewpoints are identical. This was made clear through the meetings held between His Majesty King Husayn and President Mubarak, who was eager to acquaint King Husayn with developments. He entrusted me to travel to Rome on 1 February to brief King Husayn on some of these developments.

[Nawfal] What role can Egypt play between the PLO and Jordan? I pose this question because you are an expert on UN Resolutions Nos 242 and 338.

['Abd al-Majid] We always say that there should be PLO-Jordanian coordination. We will not get tired of repeating this because it is difficult to settle the Palestine question without Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. The Palestine question is closely linked to coordination and cooperation between the PLO and Jordan. Egypt is concerned about achieving this coordination and cooperation. Although there are some difficulties, the situation cannot tolerate any estrangement between Jordan and the PLO.

[Nawfal] Does Egypt advise the PLO to accept UN Resolutions Nos 242 and 338?

['Abd al-Majid] The PLO has the right to have the final say. I can say that Egypt's position is based on UN Resolutions Nos 242 and 338. I have also mentioned on more than one occasion that UN Resolution No 242 has important positive points, such as the inadmissibility of a forcible acquisition of land, the need to put an end to the Israeli occuaption, the need for Israeli withdrawal, and land for peace. Of course, we have a reservation about UN Resolution No 242 because it refers to the issue of refugees, which is not being discussed. Today, we are talking about the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and their right to self, determination. This point should not constitute an obstacle to acceptance of the positive points in UN Resolution No 242. UN Resolution No 338 calls for an international conference within a certain framework. It was issued after the October war in 1973. That international conference generated the idea of the international conference being sought by the region.

[Nawfal] How does Egypt view ideas such as the return to autonomy attributed to the U.S. side?

['Abd al-Majid] Let me say that there is no such an autonomy. Certainly there should a final settlement, to which Egypt adheres.

[Nawfal] You are going to visit Moscow soon. What role should the Soviet Union play?

['Abd al-Majid] We urge the Soviet Union to be a partner in the international conference because the Soviet Union can play a role and have responsibilities in this region. We want the Soviet Union to participate in the international conference because it is a permanent UN Security Council member.

[Nawfal] Is this linked to the Soviet and U.S. regional disputes such as the Afghan problem?

['Abd al-Majid] George Shultz will meet with Shevardnadze within a few days, and I believe that the Middle East issue will be one of the priorities to be discussed by the two officials.

[Nawfal] Your Excellency, has Egypt completely abandoned President Mubarak's initiative after the Americans and the Israelis have rejected it, as 'Arafat put it?

['Abd al-Majid] I do not believe this idea is accurate. President Mubarak's initiative covers a number of ideas aimed at giving momentum to the issue and paving the way for the convening of an international conference. I believe that this was achieved in light of what took place in Washington and in other capitals visited by the president.

[Nawfal] You have met with Sinyurah, Abu Rahmah, and other Palestinian figures, and President Mubarak said that the Palestinian representation in the international conference is an Arab affair and should be settled within an Arab framework. Will you explain how the Palestinians will participate?

['Abd al-Majid] There is no doubt that the Palestinian representation is an affair of the Palestinians led by the PLO. It is also an Arab affair in the talks or in the international conference before being an affair of any other side. This issue is in the hands of the Palestinian brothers in coordiantion and cooperation with Jordan, with us, and with other Arab brothers. It should be clear that we are concerned about a Jordanian-Palestinian coordiantion accepted by the two sides. This is Egypt's position. The Palestinian representation is important and basic, because we are talking about the Paelstine question and, the Palestinian representative should be authorized by the PLO so that he can talk. Of course, I was pleased by meeting with Brothers Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah in Washington during a lengthy, positive, and useful meeting. I also believe there is a complete understanding by the Palestinian brothers of all the circumstance surrounding this sensitive position.

[Nawfal] President Mubarak said: I cannot ask the Palestinian people to stop if I cannot offer them a hope. Is there a hope? And is Egypt with the continuation of the uprising?

['Abd al-Majid] Yes. We believe there should be a hope for the Palestinian people. They also should have dignity and enjoy appreciation and respect. We are very concerned about saying that after this bitter and violent occupation, the Palestinian people have risen up in all their vitality and strength. This is our opinion of the Palestinian people, their aspirations, and future hopes.

[Nawfal] Frankly, Minister, do you think the international community is now prepared to accept initiatives and move toward a peace conference, or that there exists a stage of, as some put it, time partitioning due to the U.S. elections?

['Abd al-Majid] I hope not. First, I hope we are confident of what we are doing and that we work seriously and honestly. I think it is very obvious that the distinct feature of the Egyption work is seriousness and honesty, despite all of the difficulties we have faced over the past years, and all of the propaganda campaigns and attacks against Egypt. Egypt proves its seriousness and aim daily. It has no self-interest except that the Palestinian people achieve their rights. That peace prevail in this region, that all people live in harmony and understanding, and that the Palestinian people, who have been deprived of their rights over the past 20 years, obtain their dignity, respect, and rights, this is the Egyptian demand. As to whether the international arena is prepared for this, first we must prepare the international arena; we must help it become prepared. There will, of course, be objections and obstacles in our way. Egypt does not accept retreat before or evasion of these obstacles and objections once they appear.

[Nawfal] Through the restoration of its relations with most Arab countries, Egypt has strongly returned to the Gulf region. You say that before anything else President Mubarak considers the security of the region part of Egypt's security. How?

['Abd al-Majid] The president has covered these questions. I was present during all of his press conferences in the Gulf countries. The link between the security of the Gulf and that of Egypt is clear and does not require any comment or explanation. I reaffirm what the president said in those press conferences, and I am sure you have fully covered these issues. I have nothing to say except to reaffirm what the president said during his Gulf tour.

[Nawfal] As regards Egypt, Arab security is an integrated whole. But how do you interpret the collective Arab Defense Pact and its priorities over the commitments of the Camp David Accords?

['Abd al-Majid] There is no contradiction. This is clear from a legal aspect, and you are a man who understands the law. Our stand is very clear. There is no contradiction between the Arab conventions to which Egypt is a party and the subsequent international commitments.

[Nawfal] What has been achieved since the restoration of relations with the Arab countries?

['Abd al-Majid] The formal relations have only been restored for a short period, but in fact the relations were always there, and they were strong. I had hoped that you would have attended or followed the conference of the Arab interior ministers currently underway here, which is receiving success and is being welcomed by all Egyptian officials. We are happy with the presence of a large number of Arab interior ministers in Cairo. This is the first conference on the ministerial level to be held since the restoration of relations. It is indicative of and confirms the link between Egypt and its Arab brothers.

[Nawfal] Does the restoration of relations between the PDRY and Egypt have a special significance. Does it, for instance, open the way for the restoration of relations with other countries sympathetic to PDRY such as Syria and Algeria?

['Abd al-Majid] You might as well pose this question to Syria and Algeria; they will give more specific answers. As far as we are concerned, we welcome the restoration of relations with the PDRY and consider this a new addition to the return to normalizing things between us and our Arab brothers. There are no differences, as far as Egypt is concerned, between us and Syria, Algeria, or Libya. Of course, they are brothers with a long-standing status. I leave it to you to appreciate the significance of the return of the PDRY; this does not need a major analysis.

[Nawfal] President Mubarak visited Morocco and discussed with King Hassan II the bases of economic cooperation between the Arab Maghreb countries. How does Egypt look at this cooperation, and is there a possibility of a dialogue between Cairo and the Arab Maghreb capitals?

['Abd al-Majid] We stand with every Arab gathering that pushes the Arab countries toward cooperation and joint action. We totally support the trend in the Maghreb countries for cooperation, and I am sure they also have this feeling. We wish all of these gathering success.

[Nawfal] I pose my last question to the expert on international affairs, international law, the United Nations, and even on Begin's objection that sovereignity is for the people not the land. Are today's challenges different from those of the past when you were at the United Nations? Are they larger or smaller?

['Abd al-Majid] We have always believed in firm principles. We have always been concerned about the rights of the Palestinian people. I recall that I discussed this on many occasions in the United Nations. Desptie all the difficulties that existed, I have never lost my conviction of this for a single moment. I believe that today we are facing challenges. The Palestinian people have proven their existence. The Arab peoples have increasingly begun to relaize this. Egyptian-Arab rapprochement has become a fact. These things will perhaps give us hope in the futrue of this great Arab nation.

Al-Baz Views Aims of Mubarak's Initiative

NC151945 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i's visit to Egypt falls within the framework of the continuing consultations between the Egyptian and Jordanian leaders over the major national causes. He noted that of particular importance among these issues is the establishment of peace in the Middle East, especially in wake of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, and in view of the ongoing efforts to activate and give impetus to the peace process in accordance with the international resolutions and norms.

Noting the recent occurrence of important developments, which are continuing, Dr al-Baz particularly referred to two events in this respect. The first, he said, is the uprising, which Egypt is eager to exploit to serve the interests of the Palestinian people and to enable them to enjoy their national and legitimate rights, particularly their right to self-determination. The second, he added, is the number of initiatives and ideas currently under discussion at the international level in an attempt to utilize the current situation to stimulate the peace process and start negotiations leading to the termination of the Israeli occupation.

Al-Baz pointed out that President Mubarak's initiative aims to activate the efforts of all the parties concerned, present the Palestinian issue before the international community after being held in abeyance for a long time, and convince all of the local and international parties, including Israel, that the Palestinian issue is an urgent matter that cannot be delayed or overlooked. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Baz noted that the message which the Palestinian uprising has addressed to the Israeli people and their parties and political forces is clear: The issue is urgent; the Palestinian people are determined to end the occupation; and they do not accept a continuation of the present situation, which constitutes a danger not only to the Palestinian issue, but to all the parties and to the interests of the various local and international forces in the area.

Dr al-Baz explained that President Mubarak's initiative has a two-fold aim: the first is to convince the parties that have influence on the issue of the need to achieve progress; the second is to convince them that the uprising cannot be ended through the use of repressive measures. The Arabs should utilize the uprising, he stressed.

Dr al-Baz explained that if the Israelis want to end the uprising, they should end the occupation and allow the Palestinian people to assume responsibility for their own affairs. To achieve this, he said, it is necessary for the principal Arab and international forces to undertake a number of moves. The Arab forces are represented by Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the PLO. The international forces are represented by the United States, the Soviet Union, and the various European states, as well as by the responsibilities entrusted to the United Nations. Dr al-Baz affirmed the need for these parties to act in order to implement President Mubarak's initiative.

Dr al-Baz pointed out that President Mubarak's initiative is designed to revive the peace process in the area, in accordance with the principles and bases previously approved by all of the parties. He said that Egypt, Jordan, the PLO, and all of the parties, including Israel [as received], are convinced that an international conference will be held to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, with an addendum acknowledging the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination. This addendum must be submitted on the basis of Arab consensus in order to solve all aspects of the Palestinian issue, including guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Dr al-Baz said that as is well known, all of the parties have approved of the convening of an international conference, which is noted in one of the provisions of President Mubarak's initiative. He said that only Israel has objected to this conference. Therefore, the remarks are addressed to Israel, which is urged to agree to a conference in accordance with the principles that all the parties will approve. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Baz expressed the belief that what has been accomplished should be regarded as a big gain. All of the parties, including Israel, now agree that it is impossible to delay finding a solution to the issue as it constitutes a time bomb, and that negotiations must start because they are considered a first, essential step.

Dr al-Baz said that negotiations will give hope to the Palestinian people who live under occupation. Without them, he added, it would be natural for the Palestinian people to resort to any means to express their rejection of the occupation.

The Foreign Ministry first under secretary said that President Mubarak's initiative has made the United States understand the need to do something to activate the situation. The European states have also adopted a stand in support of Egypt's position. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Baz pointed out that the U.S. proposals include nothing new from the objective standpoint. He said that some of the ideas raised by the United States are wrong. Al-Baz noted in this connection that Egypt has taken a stand on these ideas, insisting that they be amended. He said: We have conveyed our observations and reservations to the United States. He noted that other Arab parties have the same reservations. Al-Baz pointed out, however: The important thing is that activity has been undertaken. We can maintain this movement.

Continuing, Dr al-Baz said that in addition to utilizing the uprising, the Egyptian initiative dismisses the concept that nothing can be accomplished this year because it is a year of elections, a concept which meant in effect that the uprising should not be exploited to achieve the goals for which it was launched.

Regarding the initiative and its connection with autonomy, Dr al-Baz affirmed that the initiative has overtaken the autonomy issue.

Dailies View U.S. Moves, Israeli Repression

NC170840 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Egypt's political and diplomatic activity is based on clear priorities. Foremost among them are the desires to end the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, to support the Palestinian uprising and explain its causes and legitimacy as a method spawned by Israeli violence and repression over the past 20 years, to link this uprising with the original Palestinian question, and to attain stability in the region on the basis of a just solution and the observance of the legitimate rights of all parties.

In today's editorial, the paper notes that in light of the information and facts made available to Egypt through its contacts with all parties, President Husni Mubarak has decided to send a message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan before U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz embarks on his visit to Moscow next week prior to touring the Middle East.

The paper expects the message to constitute a positive addition to U.S. moves in the wake of President Mubarak's peace initiative and his visit to Washington, especially as Shultz has announced that the basis of the U.S. proposals under discussion is the principle of exchanging land for peace. The paper comments that commitment to the foregoing principle is an appropriate introduction to a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East.

In conclusion, the paper declares that Egypt is determined to proceed with its initiative and positive actions to achieve a just peace by putting forward practical and flexible ideas. Egypt meanwhile trusts that there is Arab support for its moves and international understanding for its concepts, as these moves are devoted to furthering the cause of peace and stability.

The newspaper AL-AHRAM warns Israel of the consequences of continuing its policy of repression against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories, as well as its daily introduction of new methods of repression that have reached a degree of cruelty and tyranny reminiscent of history's blackest pages.

The paper remarks that the new forms of Israeli repression signify only that the Israeli authorities have completely despaired of using traditional methods to suppress the uprising, now in its 3d month. The new methods also mean the tyrannical occupation authorities will persist in the belief that the occupied land is part of their private domain. These authorities use the territories as a feudal estate dating back to the era of serfdom, in which only the lord's law, supported by his deterrent whip and bloodhounds, prevails.

The paper notes that the daily lessons these authorities get from the resistance should have awakened them from their arrogance long ago and made them take into account similar events elsewhere, including recent ones, which have proved that dealing with a handful of revolutionaries is totally different from dealing with an "entire nation's uprising." The paper asserts that such confusion in outlook can lead to horrible consequences.

In conclusion, the paper states that Israel must understand that acts of repression by an occupying force are necessarily an invitation for an immediate response, and that its brutal treatment is bound to result in similar brutality on the part of the resistance forces. The paper adds that if "the suppressed" do not find something else to use, their natural weapons and means of collective action will "spread." In this connection, the paper cites the fact that the demonstrations and protests are spreading from the occupied Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza to the Syrian Golan Heights, and indeed to the heart of the original occupied territories in Israel proper.

The newspaper AL-AKHBAR denounces the criminal bombing of the ship which had been prepared to transport Palestinian deportees back to their homeland. The paper says that this crime demonstrates yet again the gangster methods by which Israel continues to be administered even today.

The paper points out that all the current Israeli leaders, beginning with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, as well as Menachem Begin and others before him, are from the generation of those terrorist gangs which established the new state over mounds of fractured limbs and skulls, and through hideous massacres in Kafr Qasim, Dayr Yasin [Giv'at Sha'ul], and dozens of other Arab villages.

The paper compares this Israeli method with that used by the notorious international mafia gangs to eliminate all who resist their moves.

Following this same method, the paper says, the Palestinian return ship was bombed after all the threats and warnings that impeded the rental of Greek ships had failed. It remarks that Israel also used its gangster methods to bomb the Iraqi nuclear reactor, steal uranium from ships and factories, and assassinate Palestinian leaders in their sleep in Beirut.

AL-AKHBAR declares that all the Israeli leaders have forgotten that crimes, no matter how numerous, do not pay. Neither will crimes enable them to achieve their legitimate [as received] objectives, even if they occasionally succeed in eliminating some of their enemies.

Comparison of Mubarak's Police Academy Speech

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic on 11 February publishes on pages 3 and 5 the approximately 6,000-word "text" of the speech President Muhammad Husni Mubarak delivered at the opening ceremony of a symposium on security issues at the Police Academy in Cairo on 10 February. The AL-AHRAM version has been compared with the Cairo Domestic Service Arabic version published in the 11 February Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on page 12, revealing the following variations:

Page 16, column two, paragraph two, last sentence, from: ... would be finished, the scandal would be over, and the state would be partitioned [wa-qussimat al-dawlah]. [sentence as published]

This also does not mean we must... (rewording, supplying indistinct words and editorial notations)

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 11 February also publishes the approximately 6,000 word "text" of the Mubarak Police Academy speech on pages 2, 9, and 14. The AL-JUMHURIYAH version is identical to the Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic version published in the 11 February Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, but renders the above sentence as follows:

Page 16, column two, paragraph two, last sentence, from: ...would be finished, the issue would be over, and the state would be established [wa-uqimat al-dawlah]. [sentence as published]

This also does not mean we must... (rewording, supplying indistinct words and editorial notations)

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi 'Special Message' to Palestinians

JN181214 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1001 GMT 18 Feb 88

["Special message" by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Palestinians in the occupied territories; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God. Among the believers are men who have been true to the covenant they made with Allah. There are some of them who have fulfilled their vow, and some who still wait, and they have not changed their condition in the least. [Koranic verse] Brothers, sons of the Arab people in occupied Palestine. I greet you from the land of the Jamahiriyah; from the state of the masses, popular congresses, popular committees, and revolutionary committees, where authority belongs to the people and representation is considered charlatanism. I greet you from the land which first called for liberation. I greet you from the land which addressed the angry generation in occupied Palestine and received the response of this generation.

Indeed, it is the revolution of the angry generation. It is the revolution of stones. It is the revolution of the angry generation in Palestine. It is the revolution of the new generation; the generation of the era of the masses. It is the revolution of the generation which is angry about abandonment, submission, humiliation, and this Arab submissiveness and mean plotting. The Arabs have become the guardians of the Israeli enemy, this feeble entity, this paper entity which is falsely called Israel on Palestinian entity. This entity cannot withstand the stormy Arab sea. Unfortunately, however, the traitorous reactionary Arab rulers and regimes have turned themselves into guardians for the enemy. Were it not for these regimes, the feeble entity called Israel would not have remained in Palestine all this time. The popular liberation war is a locust war which is bound to succeed if the Arab gates and police are removed from the Arab borders.

Brothers, I repeat once again what I told you in the past. I extend my greetings and express my pride in you, because you washed off the shame. You have proved that the Arab is brave and that he faces the bomb with stones. You have proved that unarmed youths are facing an enemy army which is armed to the teeth. This is a rare example of courage and defiance. You have proved that the Arab is brave, that Palestine is occupied, and that the so-called State of Israel is a fallacy and an outcome of World War II. You have also exposed the true nature of the Israelis to the world.

Hitler has now become innocent compared with the crimes which the Israelis have committed against you. Indeed, there is a strong call now to revise the world's post-war literature, the literature to which Zionism has made its contribution. Hitler has been proven right after the secret of this Zionist octopus has been exposed to the

whole world. One day, the whole world will support Hitler. It has now begun to support you against Zionism. This terror and nightmare which Zionism has spread in the world in order to support the Israelis to occupy Palestine must be removed. The true nature of the Israeli has been exposed to the whole world. The Israelis have been exposed as barbarians, savage, murderers, and terrorists.

Who exposed this? The angry generation, the unarmed Palestinian people, the stone-throwers. Brothers, your revolution has shaken the world and made it seek a way to solve the question of the Palestinian people. However, I must point out something serious: Like the U.S. and Israeli moves, the Arab reactionary moves and the Egyptian regime's moves are all aimed at stopping the Palestinian revolution only. All Husni Mubarak's moves, which are very hostile to the revolution of the Palestinian people, serve Zionist and U.S. aims. This is because these moves have come by order from the United States, which wants to strengthen Israel against the Arabs. Arab reaction, Arab traitors, and the reactionary countries are all conspiring against the Palestinian revolution. They want to foil this revolution and to protect the Israelis from this revolution, which has exposed them and made the whole world now support the Palestinian people. The world now knows that there is an occupied territory and that there is a people whose territory has been occupied.

In the past, Europe witnessed demonstrations against Hitler. Today, Europe witnesses demonstrations against the Israelis. The Israelis are the new Hitler and Zionism the neo-Nazism. The revolution of stones and the angry generation made the world see this fact.

Therefore, brothers, be careful. O leaders of the occupied territories, O masses of the occupied territory, O youths of the angry generation, O soldiers of the stones, beware of the suspicious moves which are taking place in Egypt and Jordan by orders from imperialism and Zionism and with the support and financing of Arab reactionaries. These moves are all aimed at crushing the Palestinian revolution. Outwardly, these moves look merciful, but inwardly they are tortuous. These are hypocritical moves by hypocrites who have fallen historically and have no value, dignity, or credibility whatsoever. The revolution is a noble act which cannot be tackled by fallen hypocrites and defeatists.

The revolution is the cause of the honorable masses and the revolutionaries. Revolution is blood and martyrdom. Husayn and Mubarak are far away from the honor of martyrdom and blood tax. If they are honest, let them open their borders to the fedayeen.

Brothers, I must tell you: Beware of all these attempts. They must be categorically rejected by the Palestinian people in occupied Palestine. What is required of the Arab revolutionary forces is to support the Palestinian people against these suspicious moves, whose links are now being joined from the U.S. Black House to Zionist circles, Arab reaction, and Arab traitors.

Brothers, I would like to present to you another proposal which confirms the previous proposal [as heard]: It is very important to raise the slogan of popular rejection, civil disobedience, and secret acts of sabotage. I assure you that these are potent long-term weapons. If we want to reject occupation, it is not necessary to throw stones at it. We should reject it by refusing to cooperate with it, by cutting off its lifelines, such as closing roads, cutting off power, disrupting telephone lines, cutting off supplies, sabotaging supplies, and refusing to deal with it. If we want to work, we must work in Palestinian establishments, in Palestinian agriculture and Palestinian industry.

If we are forced to work in enemy institutions, we must sabotage them. We must entrust someone to sabotage them. If we are 100 workers in an Israeli workshop, factory, or project, we need ask only one worker to sabotage the place. In this case we offer a victim. There is no harm in this. However, we need not offer any victim when the worker is top secret. Consequently, the Israeli economy will be damaged and the Zionist organization will be confused because it will encounter incessant secret acts of sabotage everywhere and by all means. The program of secret sabotage and instigation of secret sabotage should be adopted. The slogan of popular rejection of the occupation from the river to the sea will then be confirmed. The inhabitants of Palestine that was occupied in 1948 should be united in this rejection with those of the rest of Palestine that was occupied in 1967.

The important factor is that the suspect world, the hostile world, the whole world is moving toward what is easy in confronting this problem. The enemy and the Arab and non-Arab reactionaries want to stress that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are territories occupied by Israel. We listen to London radio and hear about the territories occupied by Israel. This means there is something called Israel and nothing called Palestine. This is because this Israel has occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Well, how were we before 1967, before the West Bank and Gaza Strip were occupied? Was there no Palestinian problem? Did we not offer convoys of martyrs when the West Bank and Gaza Strip were in our hands? Were we wrong? Were they not martyrs? There were convoys of martyrs before 1967.

Look at this forgery of the sacred issue. They sold the martyrs' blood. They are talking about autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the Israeli authority. There is a state called Israel which is occupying the West Bank and Gaza Strip. There is no state called Israel. There is Palestine, which has been occupied since 1948. The rest of it was occupied in 1967. But the question is not that of argument, or discussion. It is not a point of logic. It is a question of historical responsibility; the Palestinian people in the territory occupied in 1948 must

stage demonstrations and sit-in strikes, reject the occupation, and practice civil disobedience and secret sabotage in Haifa, Yafo, 'Akko, and all the Palestinian territory from the river to the sea.

We must immediately begin with popular, revolutionary, rejectionist, disobedient, and subversive cohesion from the river to the sea. Yafo, Haifa, 'Akko, and all occupied Palestine since 1948 should revolt and establish cohesion with the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We should immediately destroy the plot that there is a state called Israel which is occupying the West Bank and Gaza Strip because Palestine is the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This does not take place through Husni Mubarak, imperialism, or Zionism. It takes place only through the Palestinian people's revolution. These people are the ones who should immediately reveal to the world that Palestine has been occupied since 1948 and that the people are not only in the West Bank and Gaza Strip but the entire Palestinian people in all of Palestine.

We only accept the oriental Jews who have lived with us for thousands of years in Palestine and the state of Palestine, the jamahiriyah of Palestine, and the state of the Palestinian masses which comprises the Palestinian Arabs and Palestinian Jews. The other Jews who came after 1948 should return to their homelands. These include the Russian, French, American, Iranian, and even Arab Jews who should return to their homelands.

We do not bear the responsibility of the world oppression of Jews. The war should end in the states that oppress the Jews. Why does France oppress a Frenchmen, because he is a Jew in order to emigrate to Palestine? If this exists, then struggle should be in France and not in Palestine, at the expense of France and not at the expense of the Palestinian people. We do not oppress the Jews. The oriental Jews are our brothers and we live side by side with them as Palestinians in Palestine. As for the Zionists—the invaders and strangers who emigrated in waves under any cover—they are colonialist waves which came from Europe and Eurasia and they should return. We do not accept them. We reject them. This is the popular rejection of this occupation.

They expelled us after we had settled in Andalusia for 800 years. They said: This is not your land, return to where you came. We told them we have not come now; our great great grandfathers were the ones who came. They said we do not know Arabic. Similiarly, we are now doing the same thing. Return to where you came from. We do not recognize those who were born in Palestine because we, generation after generation, were born in Andalusia and then they told us: You have a land, return to it. And they sent us out. We do not recognize those who were born in Palestine. The one who came to it as an emigrant should return to where he came from; the one who was born in it should return to the land from which his father, grandfather, or great grandfather came.

We must soon hear that the revolution has erupted in Jaffa, Acre, and Haifa. I am not asking you to face bullets with your bare chests, your bare hands. I call for civil disobedience and popular rejection, by all the available means that might not lead to confrontation between you and the enemy soldiers. Armed confrontation should be undertaken by Palestinian fedayeen, the popular fronts which were established to liberate Palestine. This is the action that you should undertake. Armed struggle will be the job of the fedayeen, the armed Palestinian fedayeen fronts, which should have joined hands under the banner of the PLO. The PLO should be a fighter, a democratic organization.

Even without unity, the Palestinian fighting fronts under the PLO should face the enemy soldiers. The daring operation which the PFLP-GC carried out in northern Palestine was in the form of fighting between a Palestinian soldier and an Israei soldier. The unarmed Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory between the River Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea should not be called on to make sacrifices from among their sons every week. There is a method which serves the same purpose; namely, popular rejection. You can translate the phrase popular rejection into many actions, such as civil disobedience which is known as secret sabotage. The secret sabotage does not lead to using firearms. It may lead to interrogation and questioning if someone is discovered, but generally he will not be discovred.

Practice secret sabotage against enemy establishments because their existence on your land is fake, it is an aggression. We reject this entity called Israel. We must ruin it from within. This will be a secret destruction at this stage. The fedayeen uses open methods, he practices open sabotage. The entire nation is expecting the Egyptian people and army to make sacrifices for Palestine. It is expecting them to wipe away this shame. It is shameful for the Egyptians to be transformed into guards for the Israelis so they can be free to kill their Palestinian brothers and bury them alive in occupied Palestine. What shame. This shame can only be expunged by fire from the Egyptian people and army. The front must be opened so the locusts should advance. In facing this enemy, we are locusts. We can face the enemy with rifles, with knives, and with cars. We do not need planes if the locusts cross the Egyptian, Jordanian, and Lebanese borders.

Some time ago, I promised you that I was working for pooling the Arab nation's resources to help the Palestinian people. You have heard about these steps. Efforts are continuing and the struggle is continuing to finance the Palestinian popular revolution, to extend to you food, clothes, and medicine, to extend to you political, moral, and material support. Carry on your task, but there is no need to expose yourselves to danger. The weapons of popular rejection, civil disobedience, and secret sabotage are more effective and threatening to the enemy than stones. Using stones is an expression of valor and courage but stoning will not last. Popular rejection will last.

Organizers and revolutionary leaders in occupied Palestine from the river to the sea, in both the areas occupied at 1948 and the areas occupied in 1967, should effect solidarity and launch a popular uprising that will defy the enemy and ruin him. We should practice this rejection without exposing ourselves to bullets. We must practice civil disobedience without facing bullets, undertake secret sabotage without confronting firearms.

We support you with all our hearts and weapons. This may be a beginning of the end to the enemy and the beginning of awakening to Palestine and the entire Arab nation. The struggle will continue.

Saudi King Cables Al-Qadhdhafi on Surgery

LD190031 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Feb (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received a cable from [Saudi King] Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Here is its text:

His Excellency Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi;

On the occasion of Your Excellency's surgery and your safe departure from the hospital, it pleases me to send you my best fraternal wishes and my sincere congratulations on the success of this operation.

May God grant Your Excellency health and happiness and the fraternal Libyan Arab people prosperity and progress. Please accept my greetings.

Your brother, Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Algeria's Bendjedid Cables

LD190028 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1901 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Feb (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received a cable from [Algerian] President Chadli Bendjedid. Here is its text:

Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution:

We received with pleasure and satisfaction the news about the success of your surgery. As I wish you speedy recovery, I pray to God to grant you health and happiness so that we will be able to continue together the march of unifying construction within the framework of the greater Arab Maghreb as a preliminary step toward comprehensive Arab unity.

Your brother, Chadli Bendjedid

JANA on 'Zionist Terrorists,' Western Silence

LD181858 Tripoli JANA in English 1810 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Day after day, the despotism of the Zionist terrorist continues and augments with their increasing diversity in the methods of tyranny, terrorism and killing of the Palestine Arab people's sons which initiated two months ago the stone revolution to confront the U.S. war machine driven by the Zionist gangs.

Facing the insistence of the Zionist terrorists in their despotism and their practices which overshadowed the Nazi atrocities during World War Two, the Western media continued to tackle this inhumane situation with complete silence and turning a blind eye on what is going on and the attempts to annihilate a whole nation because of its demands in its usurped land and its robbed rights.

JANA's international affairs editor commented on that by saying: "The world which is standing at the gates of the 21st century witnessing such horrific (?crimes) is demanded to bear the human historic responsibility to wipe out what is called Zionism and expose those standing behind it and supporting it by incriminating them and put an end to this barbarous defiance to humanity".

The editor explained that as much as those crimes expose the extent of the deep hatred in the hearts of those neo-Nazis whose hatred and terrorism has pushed them to the extent of burying alive unarmed Arabs which made us confirm the following facts:

First:-

The crusading terrorist scheme full of hatred against Arabs and awaiting the opportunity to annihilate the Arab nation, is no longer a prediction of future-reading, it is an established reality led by America with Zionist claws and Western protection.

Second:-

These rights befell the mulberry leaf the West is using to cover its claws of civilisation and its claimed keenness and regard for human rights. At a time it does not stay silent and turn a blind eye toward the terror, the killing, the repression and burying living people—which are crimes that overshadowed the crimes of the Nazis in their horrors—we see it go to the extent of opposing world consensus and the resolutions of the international community, which had incriminated the Zionist terrorism against the sons of the Arab people of occupied Palestine.

This is what the U.S. Administration has confirmed by using its veto in the Security Council in opposition to the condemnation of the racist crimes of the Zionist occupation forces against an unarmed people.

Concluding his commentary, the world affairs editor asserted that: "The world, in the name of civilization and humane values, is demanded to take a serious stance to put an end to what is happening in occupied Palestine and incriminate those who back terrorists and killers—at the head of those are America, which did not hold any material or military support for the Zionists and Britain, who is historically responsible for implanting such murderers, aliens and foreigners in the heart of our Arab nation".

JANA Editor Responds to Moroccan Papers

LD182105 Tripoli JANA in English 1753 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—JANA's Arab affairs editor deplored the artificial uproar that came out at the same time and in the same line and maybe by the same pen in a number of Moroccan newspapers about the visit the leader of the revolution made to both sisterly Tunisia and Algeria.

In a comment on that, the editor said: "The reader of what those papers said, comes out instantly with an impression that the obvious reason that pushed those papers to rise in uproar and not sit was what they have described as "awful crime" and "big sin" meaning as they stated: the meeting of the leader of the revolution with 'Abd al-'Aziz al Amin" [not further identified].

If we just took this obvious reason, of which those Moroccan papers made a basis and a starting point of their attack, then we will find ourselves facing an amazing strange situation which cannot confirm but one fact: the reverse logic and the twisting of facts' necks that prevailed over the Arab official state which had produced such media triviality in tackling matters of Arab concern and mould them in accordance with the mood of a person, who does not see a shame, a shyness and an obstacle to go to the extent of allowing the forbidden and forbidding the allowed and to look at things in one eye—which we doubt the correctness of its sight. [sentence as received]

We do not bring a far-fetched evidence, or a thing of our imagination and personal purposes to prove that... only yesterday, when the criminal terrorist Shim'on Peres defied the Arab land of Morocco, with his hand still dripping with blood of our Arab people's sons in Palestine, Lebanon and Tunisia—he was received as a king and a conqueror in "Ifrane" city. He has enjoyed a personal welcome from the King of Morocco who had shook his hand and turning his back to all the Arab consensus and popular denunciation which saw in such incident direct harming in depth of its national cause and a stab in the heart of the march of national struggle against the Zionist enemy.

We say when that had taken place, the same shyness that disappears from the Moroccan papers now, had disappeared from them when they saw terrorist Peres in their vicinity on the land of Morocco. They did not satisfy themselves to turn a blind eye on this forbidden sin in the national concept so that we say that in silence there is wisdom. They even did not find it a shame preventing them from endeavouring to come out with excuses to receiving terrorist Peres and philosophise such meeting to turn it by their amazing ability into a thing that serves the national cause.

As for today, when the leader of the revolution meets an Arab brother on an Arab land, such a meeting becomes "a sin and an unforgivable crime" as the nearly exact wording of some of the Moroccan newspapers.

The editor asserted that we here on the land of the Great Al-Fatih—the base for unity action and true national effort to breathe life into this nation, to confront its enemies, to secure the future of its existence and the destiny of its coming generation. We deplore, even incriminate all the irresponsible trivialities and slander that we saw in certain Moroccan newspapers. We say: We have experiences of unity work and clear nationalist stances we are known for that makes us reject whoever try to cut us short within the framework of the national deed. We do not need anyone to give us lessons in matters of unity and reunification.

Morocco

King Hassan Views Egyptian Ties, PLO, Mahgreb

NC171628 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA)—King Hassan II of Morocco has emphasized that Egyptian-Moroccan relations are distinguished, noting that during Morocco's ordeal under French colonization, Cairo was the ideological and national capital of Morocco. He stated that Morocco's warm welcome for President Mubarak demonstrated that its bonds with Egypt are inestimable, priceless, and immeasurable; they are bonds of love and loyalty between two peoples. He noted that his country's relations with Egypt are unrestricted and unbounded and voiced his hope they will rise to the level of both people's aspirations.

This came in an interview the Moroccan monarch gave to Makram Muhammad Ahmad, the chief editor of AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, and AL-JUMHURIYAH Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari. The interview will be published in AL-MUSAWWAR on Friday and AL-JUMHURIYAH on Thursday.

Discussing the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab land, King Hassan said it has created a strategic change in the situation. He called on the parties concerned to reconsider their stands and expressed his conviction that the strategic region of the Arab world must reassess the situation in the wake of the uprising. He called for an urgent Arab summit to be held within 4 or at the most 6 weeks' time, to consider the changes in the Arab arena in light of the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Regarding President Mubarak's initiative, King Hassan said that Mubarak wants to let his initiative have its own effects, without further interference and without imposing it on anyone. He wants things to take their normal course, noting that Egypt does not seek to impose its views on any party.

King Hassan called on the PLO to accept UN Resolution 242, saying: If I were in Yasir 'Arafat's shoes, I would immediately declare my acceptance of Resolution 242. He went on to say: "I (?hope) our friends in the PLO will take the recent changes in the occupied land into account." He continued: We have a new embryo, and we must provide the best conditions for it so that it can grow. He noted that the uprising does not infringe upor the legality of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He called for an end to the rift among the Arab parties concerned and exhorted Egypt and Syria to settle their problems. He also appealed to the PLO and Syria to resolve the crisis of trust between them.

Speaking about his talks with Shim'on Peres at Ifrane when Peres was Israeli prime minister, King Hassan said: "Peres did not give me everything, nor did he reveal what he had in his heart, but I found him to be a man who realized that an Israeli victory in war was no longer a foregone conclusion. He seemed more aware that war between the Arabs and the Israelis would harm them both and profoundly affect both sides." He stressed that the Israelis know full well that use of their atomic bombs, which they consider to be deterrent, would affect them within a day or half a day should they think of using them against a neighboring Arab country. The Arab Maghreb countries, he noted, have many factors in common which should predispose them to unity, such as geographical location, religion, politics, and language. These factors are not enjoyed to the same extent by the other Arab countries. It is a pity to waste time while we have all these things in common, he declared.

King Hassan praised the GCC states, which, he said, have given us a lesson on the wise approach to unity—a step-by-step approach with clear aims.

On the Western Saharan problem and Morocco's rights to the Sahara, King Hassan said: In the Saharan issue, our case relies on historical facts, the International Court of Justice, and the tripartite agreement with Spain, which used to occupy the region. However, we found that there were those who rejected the Moroccan arguments. We then demanded that a referendum be held to sound out the opinion of the inhabitants of the Sahara. The other party, however, rejected the referendum proposal. Therefore, we had no alternative but to stand fast and strengthen the hand of the international community represented by the United Nations until the UN secretary general is able to organize a referendum.

King Hassan ruled out the possibility of a withdrawal of Moroccan forces from the Sahara prior to the referendum. He said that Algeria's request is unprecedented in international terms. As an example, he indicated that Algeria had accepted a referendum under the Evian agreement while there were still 250,000 French soldiers on Algerian territory; the Algerians did not ask France to withdraw its forces.

He also rejected direct negotiations with the Polisario. He said that there can be no negotiations that do not take place on a basis of equality. Morocco has a flag, borders, an army, citizenship, and a seat at the United Nations, while the Polisario has nothing of the sort, and its members live as guests in neighboring states, he said.

King Hassan demanded that Morocco have internationally recognized and secure borders so that the Arab Maghreb will not have problems that could surface at any time.

In this connection, he referred to the conciliation between Iran and Iraq that took place in Algiers. At that time, the recognition of the borders took place between two governments and was not an international matter. As soon as the shah was gone, the officials in Iraq [as received] changed, and we know what happened then.

Discussing current moves toward the unity of the Arab Maghreb, King Hassan stressed that any talks about the unity of the Arab Maghreb must include Morocco and Algeria.

On African-Arab relations, King Hassan stressed Morocco's affiliation to Africa, indicating that his country's relations with all African states, including those that recognize the Polisario, are good and strong.

King Hassan said that although the Arabs have involved the Africans in exclusively Arab problems, everyone must realize that the problems facing the Africans are greater and more overwhelming. He indicated that the specter of hunger, poverty, and fear must unite the African states in order to ensure dignity for their people in a world full of difficulties.

In this connection, King Hassan praised Egypt's positive role in Africa, indicating that Egypt's status and role in the OAU will be enhanced now that the flags of the Arab states are flying again in Cairo. Egypt's relations with Africa are based on sound and strong foundations, he said.

Asked whether Morocco will reconsider its decision to withdraw from the OAU, King Hassan said a referendum will be held to decide on this matter. He stated that his decision to withdraw from the OAU was in line with Moroccan principles.

Abbadi Returns From UK Visit, Discusses Talks

LD190110 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Employment Minister Hassan Abbadi returned to Morocco this evening following a visit to the UK, during which he had contacts and talks with British officials dealing with the fields of health, employment, social secuirty, and vocational training.

As for the results of his visit, the minister said:

[Begin recording] I found great understanding on the part of British officials, who expressed their willingness to bolster cooperation between our two kingdoms, particularly on issues related to the Moroccan community, and in social security, vocational training, insurance, and industrial safety sectors. These meetings took place in the presence of his majesty's ambassador. We also met MP's, particularly the leader of one of London's boroughs, who expressed her readiness to cooperate in and consolidate the social activity of the Moroccan community.

We had a number of meetings with his majesty's ambassador. I also chaired an important meeting in the presence of his majesty's community, which is composed of workers, shopkeepers, and students. During this meeting they expressed their feelings, particularly their adherence to His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, and to the glorious 'Alawite throne. They asked me to convey their loyalty, fidelity, and firm adherence to his majesty. Thank you. [end recording]

Sudan

20 Killed in Border Attack by Ethiopian Tribe

JN191119 Khartoum SUNA in English 1050 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 19 (SUNA)—Twenty Sudanese nationals were killed when an Ethiopian tribe attacked a border area in eastern Sudan looting and taking away properties, the daily newspaper AL-USBU' reported today.

The daily quoting an MP from eastern Sudan said the "Gumuz" tribe has attacked two areas near the recently recovered town of Qaysan.

The MP told the paper that these incidents were probably mastermined by the rebel movement of Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The MP has urged officials in the national capital to pay due concern to the issue of the attacks which, he argued, might insure the seizure of the areas by the rebels.

Bashir 'Umar Denies Exchange Rate Negotiations

JN171757 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb 17 (SUNA)—Finance Minister Bashir 'Umar has denied the news saying that last week's negotiation with the World Bank had dealt with any policies concerning the price of the Sudanese pound against other currencies. In a press conference today, Mr 'Umar described the news as "immoral and has nothing to do with the truth."

Television Broadcast To Cover 'Whole Country'

JN171526 Khartoum SUNA in English 1033 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 17 (SUNA)—The Sudanese Television broadcast will cover the whole country by the end of current year Culture and Information Minister Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm said yesterday.

The Sudan T.V. was launched in 1962. The first equipment was given to Sudan as a donation from Federal Germany.

The minister who inaugurated a new T.V. production studio said the T.V. services would cover the whole country by the end of 1988 [words indistinct] the new equipment and boosting stations to be [word indistinct] to the current T.V. station of Umm Durman. The minister pinpointed that in 6 weeks time a new studio will be inaugurated and a second channel will come to live diffusing programmes to complement the quarter of century old one.

The Sudan T.V. is believed to be the third oldest T.V. in Africa.

Tunisia

President Receives Italian Military Commanders

LD161740 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, in the presence of Hedi Baccouche and Slaheddine Baly, received Lieutenant General Riccardo Bisogniero, chief of the Italian Defense Staff and Rear Admiral (Ruggiero), commander of the Italian Fleet and commander of the Central Mediterranean Region-NATO. [passage omitted]

Lt Gen Bisogniero expressed his pride in meeting President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and his admiration for the personality of the head of state saying: President Zine El Abidine has a strong personality and I am convinced Tunisia is in safe hands.

Mestiri Discusses Ties With Egypt, Maghreb

NC190835 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA)—Mahmoud Mestiri, member of the ruling Socialist Destourian Party's Political Bureau and Tunisia's foreign minister, has expressed great optimism about the future of Tunisian-Egyptian relations.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published here today, the Tunisian foreign minister said that Egypt and Tunisia could play a role toward effecting a rapprochement among all Arab peoples. He noted that while he does not yet have a clear concept of this role, he is confident such a role exists because of what is known of Egypt's capability and of Tunisia's relations and experiences. He added that the possibility of playing this role exists and that the question of exploiting it is the topic of the hour.

Regarding the timing of President Mubarak's visit to Tunisia, the Tunisian foreign minister said his country is ready for this visit. He also stressed that Tunisia gives this visit the importance it deserves in view of President Mubarak's position and Tunisia's affection for the president and for the Egyptian people through him.

As for Egyptian-Algerian relations, the Tunisian foreign minister said: My country does not want to mediate between brothers whom we believe are up to the level of responsibility. However, Tunisia wants to hasten the day when full diplomatic relations between the two countries are restored without mediation and without intervention. He expressed hope the day of 'return' would be very soon.

In his interview, Mestiri described President Mubarak's initiative to activate the Middle East issue as a good one. He added that the submission of President Mubarak's initiative to the Western countries at this time is a correct idea. He underlined Egypt's role, describing it as a natural one in view of Egypt's Eastern, Western, Arab, and African role. The Tunisian foreign minister added that Egypt's role in the North African region affects Tunisia. His country, he said, agrees with Egypt on everything. Mestin, stressed that Egypt's role is an effective, peaceful, fraternal, and cordial one. He added that Tunisia expects every benefit from Egypt's gradual return to the Arab fold and hopes the full return will be accomplished soon.

Responding to a question on whether Tunisia can play a role in achieving rapprochement among the Arab Maghreb countries, particularly as there is a problem between Morocco and Algeria because of the Sahara issue, Mahmoud Mestiri said: It is one of our hopes to be able to solve the Sahara problem. However, this is not possible in the near future; thus, let us give it more time. He regretted the fact that the Sahara problem is still affecting Moroccan-Algerian relations, which gives the impression there is no hope at present in seeing a prominent improvement in these relations before the problem is resolved.

Financial Negotiations With France Deadlocked

LD182322 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] The financial negotiations between France and Tunisia have reached a deadlock. The two countries failed to agree in Tunis on Monday or Tuesday on the amount of French financial aid for this year. There was no agreement either on the repurchase of property belonging to French people. Here is correspondent Rida Bourgezi in Tunis to explain:

[Bourgezi] The problems pending between France and Tunisia are only procedural ones, said French diplomatic sources in Tunis. The negotiations on a financial protocol for 1988 and the issue of the sale of social assets belonging to French people in Tunisia have not resulted in definite agreements. But these complex negotiations, the first in over a year, are very useful. They already have made it possible to dust the cobwebs off the issue of financial aid between the two countries.

French financial aid to Tunisia amounts to about 1 billion francs per year. Today, Tunisia is claiming the accumulated totals of this aid, which it did not take up during 1985 and 1986 owing to the economic recession. The French side is refusing, referring to OECD regulations, which forbid the restoration of aid dating back more than 2 years, but the negotiations are not, in any case, blocked.

By making contact in Tunis in this way, the French have managed to gain a clearer and more precise idea of Tunisian priorities on the issue of projects. Tunisia believes that compartmentalization between French aid to development projects and aid for the balance of payments is still too rigid. It is calling for greater flexibility in the way credits are broken down into different headings, with a view to adapting them to Tunisia's needs.

The dispute over French social assets in Tunisia still remains. There, too, it is a matter of procedures which is holding up the issue. Great progress in this issue was nevertheless made last December, inasmuch as agreement already has been reached on the release by Tunisia of (?future) assets of French people whose property in Tunisia is to be sold off.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

'Disguised' Iranian Gunboats Ply Gulf Waters

NC181107 Paris AFP in English 1050 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Manama, Feb 18 (AFP)—Iranian gunboats disguised as neutral fishing vessels have been spotted near the United Arab Emirates (UAE) coast, the site of repeated Iranian attacks on merchant shipping, according to a report here Thursday.

The Bahrain English-language GULF DAILY NEWS said sailors had spotted two Iranian gunboats, which are very similar in type to fishing boats flying UAE flags as they cruised in UAE territorial waters earlier this week.

The Iranian crewmen were posing as fishermen, said the sailors, who recognized the two craft because they had observed them sailing heavily armed under the Iranian flag the previous day.

The ploy could explain how Iranian boats have been able to repeatedly attack shipping in the southern Gulf close to the UAE coast without being spotted, said regional shipping sources contacted by the newspaper.

A U.S. warship opened fire on a fishing boat approaching a convoy near Iranian-controlled Abu Musa Island in the southern Gulf in November, killing an Indian fisherman. Navy officers said they thought the vessel was an Iranian gunboat.

[Word indistinct] in the Gulf have been alerted to the threat, but amidst the large number of fishing boats that ply the southern Gulf, it is "virtually impossible" to distinguish genuine from bogus, shipping sources said.

Kuwait

Paper Suggests Shultz Discard 'Israeli Coat'

LD190939 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Feb (KUNA)—Today's AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM says that the expected visit to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is bound to fail miserably if the U.S. Administration fails to change its pro-Israeli policy.

The paper points out that U.S. envoys come to the region and tackle its crises and events "riding the Israeli horse and none of them has ever dismounted, come close to the naked facts, and faced issues as they are on the spot, away from the Israeli stables."

According to U.S. sources, the paper says, Shultz will attempt short-term measures to stop the Israeli madness against unarmed civilians in the occupied Arab territories.

The paper adds that "it is unlikely that Shultz will take the risk of tarnishing the reputation of his administration amongst the lobbies at the U.S. Congress, all the more so since there are presidential elections where Jewish votes play an influential and effective role. This is why the ideas to be proposed by Shultz will not attain their objectives the way he wants."

The paper affirms that "while the United States keeps on the Israeli coat and fails to abandon the futile quest for partial solutions and settlements, the repeated Israeli defeats inside and outside Israel will boomerang on U.S. policy itself and Israel will remain in a pincer, subject to fear and concern despite all the U.S. military and economic assistance."

PDRY

Reunification Talks With YAR Held 18 Feb

EA181604 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Brothers Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee, and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, received at noon today Brothers Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for Yemeni unity affairs and member of the Permanent Committee; Abdallah al-Bukayri, chief of General Staff and member of the Permanent Committee; Lieutenant Colonel Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar, Permanent Committee member; and members of a delegation from the northern part of the homeland.

During the meeting, Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi conveyed a message to Brothers Salim Salih Muhammad and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas from their brother, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

It concerns issues of bilateral relations and joint unionist efforts between the leadership of the two parts.

The meeting discussed (?joint) efforts between the two parts to create the best conditions for the great joint goal represented by the achievement of the reunification of the Yemeni homeland through peaceful and democratic dialogue.

The two comrades, the assistant secretary general and the chairman of the presidium, stressed the necessity of exerting all sincere efforts to reach positive and tangible results and of striving to (?realize) the joint project for exploration of oil [words indistinct] so that it becomes one of the unionist economic [word indistinct] between the two parts, serves the interests of the Yemeni people, and reinforces their victorious unionist march.

They asked the leader of the delegation to convey a reply message from the political leadership in the southern part of the homeland to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. [passage omitted]

Nu'man Receives Soviet Energy Official
EA182039 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in his office at noon today Comrade (Parupskiy), Soviet deputy energy minister [name and title as heard].

The brother prime minister welcomed the comrade Soviet deputy energy minister on his visit to Democratic Yemen, wishing him a pleasant and successful stay.

He pointed to the honest internationalist support and assistance being provided by the friendly Soviet Union to our country in the field of extracting and exploiting our natural resources in order to contribute to the ideal achievement of our (?independence), to improve our country's economic and social conditions, to enable it to keep pace with the developments of the age, and to confront the great challenges of forces hostile to our revolution and to the socialist orientation of our party and people.

The brother prime minister expressed his great appreciation of the important role being played by the friendly Soviet Union aimed at defending the pillars of world peace and guarding mankind from the dangers of the fascist aggressive tendency and nuclear wars by the imperialist and zionist forces.

For his part, the Soviet deputy energy minister expressed his happiness at visiting Democratic Yemen.

He expressed his extreme admiration of the progressive achievements being made by Democratic Yemen in the interests of Yemeni workers and toilers and praised the relations of friendship and cooperation between Democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union which are growing and thriving day by day.

A number of issues of common interest were reviewed during this meeting. [passage omitted]

Air Force Commander Denies Kuwaiti, Saudi Aid

JN181249 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1102 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA)—The Iraqi Air Force commander has refuted Iranian claims on alleged Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian assistance to the Iraqi Air Force in its attacks on Iranian targets.

In a statement to INA today, the commander said that the Iranian regime's lies are aimed at finding justification for increasing tension in the region and interferring in the affairs of regional countries.

He added that telling "cheap lies" to the Iranian people and world public opinion will not extricate the Tehran rulers from the impasse in which they find themselves. He added that the Iranian claims are groundless and meant to distract the Iranian people's attention from the disasters befalling them as a result of the Tehran rulers' insistence on war and the pains of war, as well as these rulers' deviant course of rule.

The Air Force commander said the arm of the Iraqi Air Force is long. It managed to attack targets throughout Iran both at sea and on land, and anwywhere in Iran.

He added that whenever the Iraqi Armed Force manages to deal painful blows to the regime, the Iranian authorities resort to hollow claims and exposed lies. They do this even though they are aware of the long arm of the heroic Iraqi Air Force.

He affirmed that the Iraqi Air Force will continue to destroy all pillars of aggression and cut off supplies. He said the only way the Iranian rulers can avoid the painful effects of our blows is to resort to peace.

INA had earlier cited claims by the Iranian paper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI accusing Iraqi aircraft of using a Kuwaiti air base for refueling and flying through Saudi airspace to attack Iranian ships and oil installations.

USSR's Grinevskiy on Relations, Afghan Issue

JN181931 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] The Soviet leadership's envoy Oleg Grinevskiy has described the existing relations between his country and Iraq as firm and based on mutual confidence.

At a news conference today, Grinevskiy said: I am visiting Iraq to convey a verbal message from the Soviet leadership to the Iraqi leadership on the Afghan issue. He expressed satisfaction with the results of his talks with Iraqi officials. He said: I found understanding of the Soviet position on this issue. He added that the Iraqi leadership has welcomed this position.

Grinevskiy pointed out that his talks dealt with UN Security Council Resolution No 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war, the issue of imposing sanctions on Iran, and international issues of interest to both countries.

Oleg Grinevskiy said the USSR is doing its utmost to implement the UN Security Council resolution and to achieve peace as soon as possible.

The Soviet envoy discussed a settlement of the Afghan issue saying that the crystallization and preparation of documents on this issue were concluded in Geneva, and that the USSR has set 5 May as a date for its forces withdrawal from Afghanistan, which will take place over a period of 10 months.

'Positive Stand' Welcomed

JN181443 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that Iraq is following efforts aimed at finding an appropriate solution to the Afghan problem with great interest. He said that in all international organizations Iraq has especially supported all the efforts of the UN secretary general's representative. Iraq is also following with interest Soviet initiatives and statements, the latest of which was Gorbachev's statement last Sunday on this issue. Iraq welcomes and appreciates this positive stand.

Preparations are now under way to hold a new round of Geneva talks at the beginning of March. Iraq hopes these talks will be successful. We urge the concerned parties to surmount any obstacles and continue constructive work to resolve this problem on the basis of the UN Charter, international law, and respect for sovereignty and peoples' right to self-determination.

Iraq strongly believes that resolving the Afghan problem, which has caused the region to suffer for several years, will have a positive effect on resolving other conflicts in the region in accordance with the previously mentioned bases and principles. In this way, the region can enjoy peace and security. Peace and security are needed for the resumption of development and progress.

Vietnamese Official Discusses Relations

JN181800 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 14 Feb 88 p 5

[By Mazin 'Abd al-'Aziz]

[Text] Hoang Bich Son, director of the Vietnamese Communist Party's Foreign Relations Department, has said that considerable material changes have taken place in Iraq during the last few years. He noted that projects and complexes have spread in all parts of the country despite the 8-year war.

In an interview with AL-THAWRAH, he expressed his wish for the Iraqi people's greater accomplishments under President Saddam Husayn's leadership. He hoped for a quick end to the war so that the Iraqi people can concentrate on construction and development and enjoy a happy and prosperous life.

Hoang Bich Son, who concluded a visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Foreign Relations Bureau, expressed Vietnam's desire to see a quick end to the Iraq-Iran war. He praised Iraq's positive and clear stand toward the 1987 UN Security Council Resolution No 598. He said that Iraq's insistence on implementing this resolution is a sound position in line with the wishes and aspirations of the world public, which deems it necessary to end this war as soon as possible.

Within the context of his criticism of the calls to separate the war from its solution, Hoang Bich Son stressed the need to exert serious efforts to comprehensively end the war. He said: We are talking about the war as a whole. If this war does not end, there is a possibility that it will expand. War in the Gulf waters is a result of the war between Iraq and Iran. Had there been no war between them, there would have been no war in the Gulf.

He said the Vietnamese Communist Party delegation's visit to Iraq is aimed at bolstering and promoting relations between the Vietnamese Communist Party's Foreign Relations Department and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command's Foreign Relations Bureau.

He added that relations between Iraq and Vietnam have witnessed a qualitative development since 1977 and that these relations are constantly developing, particularly in the relations between the two revolutionary parties. In 1986, he said, the two sides signed a cooperation program which was renewed during this visit.

He considered the similarity existing between the two countries a good basis for promoting relations between the two parties and two countries. He added that Vietnam has 4,000 years of experience in struggle, and Iraq, which is the cradle of civilization, has similar traditions. This will provide a firm basis to develop relations between the two countries.

The Vietnamese party official voiced his deep gratitude and appreciation for Iraqi assistance to Vietnam and said: Iraq extended assistance to Vietnam in the form of oil and stood by our country during the war which ended with the liberation of Vietnamese territory. We highly appreciate its continuing assistance to our country.

Concerning the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territory, he said this is a great revolutionary achievement. He renewed his country's support for the PLO and the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territory. He called on the peace-loving parties and peoples to voice their support for the continuing popular uprising against the Israeli occupation.

On the nature of the current conditions in Vietnam, he said that, like other countries, Vietnam is facing economic problems and difficulties. Thirty years of war have created grave problems which must be overcome. He said: No matter how difficult our problems are, our economy is proceeding on the road of progress. We are optimistic and are convinced of our ability to overcome economic difficulties during the next few years.

On whether the quantities of oil produced in Vietnam could place the country at the level of oil exporting countries, he said: Oil exploration operations are continuing. Competent organs have started to exploit oil from the sea in light quantities which form a small part of the domestic consumption.

On the policy of attracting foreign capital, which Vietnam started recently, he said: We have enacted a law that will permit large-scale investment. According to this law, foreign countries are invited to invest in Vietnam in accordance with agreed proportions and we provide excellent facilities. The law, which enjoys the support of public opinion, has permitted foreign investment in factories and large workshops that could reach 100 percent. The law also permits foreigners to provide part of the capital, with the remainder being provided by Vietnam.

The Vietnamese official stressed the need to prevent capitalist ideologies from infiltrating the country. He concluded his statement to AL-THAWRAH by saying: While we allow foreign capital into the country, we will not allow capitalist countercultures.

Egyptian Minister's Predeparture Statement

JN181357 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1204 GMT 18 Feb 88

[By Husayn Fawzi]

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that during his visit to Iraq talks dealt with the developed relations between Iraq and Egypt as well the current Arab situation.

In a predeparture statement in Baghdad today, the Egyptian minister reiterated Egypt's firm support for Iraq and its people in confronting the Iranian aggression. He praised Iraq's stands on fateful pan-Arab issues under President Saddam Husayn.

He affirmed Egypt's eagerness to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598 calling for a complete end to the Iraq-Iran war in accordance with the sequence of its articles. He also affirmed Egypt's support for

adopting deterrent international measures against Iran for its insistence on continuing the war and defying the international community's will.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid denounced the Syrian regime's stands which violate the Arab consensus. He also denounced the Syrian regime's stand alongside the Tehran rulers in their aggressvie war against Iraq.

He said the Arab Republic of Egypt strongly condemns these conspiratorial stands. This confirms the Damacus rulers' collusion with the Arab nation's enemies and their involvement in conspiratorial designs against it.

The Egyptian foreign minister hailed the Palestinian Arab people's uprising in the occupied territories against the Zionist authorities. He said that the Arab Republic of Egypt stands alongside the Palestinian struggle for their legitimate national rights and resisting the occupation.

Concluding his statement, 'Abd al-Majid expressed the Egyptian leadership's satisfaction with the development of relations between Egypt and the Arab countries because this contributes toward achieving Arab solidarity in face of the challenges.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid conveyed to President Saddam Husayn a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. While in Iraq he held talks with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on bilateral relations.

Communique No 3,026 Details 17-18 Feb Combat

JN181726 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,026 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Through their brave combat activities our valiant Armed Forces continued their confrontation of the tyrant Khomeyniite remnants last night and today inflicting on them the following losses:

1. Fifteen scoundrels were killed and 2 vehicles were damaged in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. Five personnel were killed and an infantry position was destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. An observation post, an infantry position, and a gun emplacement were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. A machine gun emplacement and a personnel shelter were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. Two enemy rafts, two gun emplacements, and an infantry position were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. Three enemy personnel were killed and a large vehicle, four infantry positions, and a personnel shelter were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 February 1988

Syria Agrees to Golan Heights 'Arrangements'

TA190950 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has recently conveyed a message to the Israeli leadership in which he expresses willingness to reach a political arrangement in exchange for an Israeli guarantee to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

The message was conveyed to Shamir's and Peres' offices by a Jewish businessman living in Switzerland, following a meeting he held with a high-level Syrian personage who is close to President al-Asad.

According to the message, Syria agrees to security arrangements that will remove any threat from Israel should it withdraw from the Golan Heights. The message also contains hints of political flexibility on the Palestinian issue, with criticism of Yasir 'Arafat and reservations about his leadership.

The Syrian message to Israel in fact joins other signals emanating from Syria and pointing at a willingness to examine a political arrangement with regard to the problem of the Golan Heights.

Richard Murphy, who recently held talks with Al-Asad in Damascus, this week informed Israeli Ambassador in Washington Moshe Arad that he was surprised by the position presented to him in Damascus which did not shut the door on the U.S. initiative. Murphy got the impression that the Syrians are willing to talk and that there is a chance Syria will not torpedo the Shultz initiative, if it leads to a permanent arrangement regarding the Middle East conflict.

'Arafat Authorizes 7 Palestinians To Meet Shultz

TA190609 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] An Arabic newspaper published in Nazareth says Yasir 'Arafat has drawn up a list of seven Palestinians authorized by the PLO to meet U.S. Secretary of State Shultz when he visits Israel next week.

According to the paper, AL-SINARA, 'Arafat will make sure that no other Palestinians will meet the U.S. official. The seven men on 'Arafat's list are Hanna Sinyurah, Fayiz Abu Rahmah, Mustafa 'Abd al-Nabi al-Natshah, Ziyad Abu Zayyad, Sa'id Kan'an, Sari Nusaybah, and 'Abd al-Karim al-Rayyan. Al-Rayyan, who headed the local Red Crescent medical organization, is currently in administrative detention. The weekly newspaper gives no source for its report.

Meanwhile, Nusaybah, a professor at Bi'r Zayt University, told REUTER he doubted 'Arafat had issued such a list. He said he was approached neither by 'Arafat nor the Americans for a meeting.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 19 February quotes a similar report in AL-SINARA, which is identified as "an economic newsletter published in Nabulus," about a six-man delegation that includes the above-mentioned, with the exception of Sari Nusaybah.]

'Arafat Group Fails To Direct Ship 'Drama'

JN182101 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 18 Feb 88

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners, yesterday, the curtain went down at the end of an act which may be the last act in the drama of the ship which was called the deportees' ship or the ship of return. This possibly final curtain was represented by the announcement of 'Arafat's organization that the ship's voyage has been postponed until further notice, and that those who were planning to board the ship may leave for home.

This announcement came only 2 days after the organization and its spokesmen said the ship would be repaired and that it would set sail. Whether the trip has been postponed or cancelled once and for all, and whether the deportees' ship assumes another name; namely, the deportees' plane, what has been confirmed is that 'Arafat's organization has sustained a shocking defeat, and a double one at that.

This organization has not only failed to direct and produce the 'Arafatist play, but it has also failed to achieve one of its main objectives, if not its higher and main objective: Riding the wave of the incidents that have taken place during the past weeks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and portraying itself as the only party that is mainpulating these incidents.

Yasir 'Arafat and the tools of his organization have become well-known for depicting every failure and defeat they sustain as a clear victory. Therefore, we will not rule out the possibility that this time they may brag some in this regard. The statements made by the late 'Isam Sartawi [former 'Arafat adviser] in 1983 a few days before he was assassinated still vividly come to mind. In these statements, he viewed the practices of the organizations' leaders and also their incorrigible behavior. He said in all frankness and at the top of his voice: They are treating our people as if they were a herd of sheep. They describe the events that have taken place in Lebanon as indicators of a clear victory for the Palestinians when they were, as a matter of fact, signs of a large-scale defeat and a catastrophe of far-reaching consequences.

Anyhow, 'Arafat's organization has failed to direct the ship play. However, according to a report carried by the Lebanese newspaper QAWM AL-'ARAB, it, namely, 'Arafat's organization, intends to try its luck in directing a new play. This time the play might be based on having a plane fly at high altitudes.

Peres: Relations With UK Labor Party 'Improved'

TA190600 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Peres says he has calmed the apprehensions of British Labor Minister [as heard] Neil Kinnock over Israeli policy in the territories. Peres said there is no tension between the Israeli and British Labor Parties and relations have even improved. Peres was speaking to a Voice of Israel reporter following a dinner given for Kinnock last night by Labor Party leaders.

'Differences' Emerge in Shamir-Kinnock Meeting

TA191146 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir conferred with British Labor Party leader Neil Kinnock this morning. Differences of opinion emerged in the talk with regard to the international conference. On another issue, however, the two men agreed about the need for international cooperation in order to solve the problem of the refugee camps in the territories. Neil Kinnock is currently holding a news conference summing up his visit to Israel.

Peres Forms Work Teams for Shultz Visit

TA181846 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has decided to meet with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to try and coordinate positions prior to George Shultz' visit to Israel. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports that Mr Shamir supports any attempt to coordinate positions but that he is not optimistic about this issue.

Shim'on Peres today established three special work teams to prepare for Shultz' visit to Israel. One team, which includes Hayim Kubersky, who coordinated the autonomy talks, and the jurists Me'ir Gabay and Shabtay Rosen, will deal with the issue of the interim arrangement. A second team for dealing with the negotiations on the permanent arrangement includes Shlomo Gazit, Hanan Bar-On, and Aluf Har-Even. The main team will be a steering team under the coordination of Political Director General Yosi Beilin and also including Director General Avraham Tamir, Peres' adviser Nimrod Novik, and Arye Levin, head of the Foreign Ministry Research Department.

Peres Supports Leaving Gaza for Peace Process

TA181853 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres says he supports leaving Gaza, since, as he sees it, it is a problem of demographics and not territory. Peres was speaking at a luncheon of the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce. He stressed that demographics were no less important than the geographical map. The foreign minister also said that if the American peace initiative fails, Arab residents in the territories will turn increasingly to the Soviet Union. Sabra Chartrand reports.

[Begin recording] [Chartrand] Demographics, according to Foreign Minister Peres, will determine Israel's borders. We are not ready to give up what we have the power to control, but only what will destroy us, he said. He cited statistics proving the Gaza Strip to be the most densely populated spot on earth: 51 of every 100 babies born here are Arab, Peres said. Anyone who believes as I do understands that demographics are no less important than the geographical map. I am willing, Peres said, to exchange territories for peace, but not all the areas. Jerusalem will be excluded. Peres warned that if the peace initiative spearheaded by the United States fails, Arabs in the territories will have only one place to turn: the Soviet Union. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this morning said if the U.S.-proposed international peace conference succeeds, it will bring the Soviets into the Middle East arena. Foreign Minister Peres:

[Peres] The Soviets are here anyway and without an international conference. It's a fact of life. Now, if the Americans will exclude themselves, then only the Russians will remain here.

[Chartrand] Peres refused to comment on reports that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will not request Soviet support for the American initiative while he is in Moscow. I don't know which tactic Shultz is going to employ, Peres said, so I will wait and see. [end recording]

Shamir Rejects Conference, Shortened Autonomy

TA181856 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said Israel will welcome U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and will listen carefully to his advice. However, Shamir told the board of governors of the World Zionist Organization that Israel would not agree to an international conference, nor to Shultz' proposal to shorten the autonomy period.

[Begin Shamir recording] Any attempt to force the pace and to shorten the period would be detrimental to the very essence of the agreement. We will explain our

objections to an international conference, because its nature and composition will, we are convinced, be counterproductive, and enable the Soviet Union to play a central role in this region.

My friends, when the time comes, we shall decide on the basis of what is in our national interest. We bear the responsibility and the consequences for any decision. [end recording]

Novik on Soviet Role, United Cabinet Stand

TA181720 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Interview with Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, by Ilana Dayan—live]

[Text] [Dayan] Good evening to you, Dr Novik. According to reports received in Jerusalem, did or did not the Soviets give the green light to the Shultz initiative?

[Novik] According to reports received in Jerusalem, the Soviets have not yet addressed themselves to this specific initiative. As we have learned both from the Americans and directly from the Soviets on various occasions, the Soviets addressed themselves to the principles guiding U.S. policy in the Middle East over the last year, let us say, rather than to the present specific initiative.

[Dayan] This refers though to long ago events. In their reports on the meeting between U.S Assistant Secretary of State Murphy and our ambassador to the United States, however, U.S. television networks spoke of U.S. diplomats briefing Soviets in recent weeks, saying that the Soviets gave the go-ahead to the Shultz initiative.

[Novik] I think we are speaking of simultaneous reports on two different issues. Indeed, the Americans told us that they briefed the Soviets on the new initiative to a certain extent. At the same time, the Americans repeatedly complained to the Soviets that to date they had not received an authoritative and detailed answer to the principles of U.S. policy in the region, as presented to the Soviets about 6 months ago. The Soviets, and in turn the Americans, are now claiming that the Soviets addressed themselves to these principles to a certain extent and in a general, but positive manner. Still, since these reports emanated, together with the momentum...

[Dayan, interrupting] ...So that some confusion has occurred. Let me ask you a different question: Why is it so important for the Americans to update the Soviets on all the details of their moves? I am also referring to the Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting in 5 days.

[Novik] Naturally, the Soviets will play a role in the current move, even if it is only in the international opening part that is slated to launch the entire initiative. Before we enter negotiations on an interim arrangement and then on the final arrangement, the Soviets will surely play a role in this international opening, whether it is called a conference, an opening, or an international element, as it is termed today.

[Dayan] Whatever the name, the Soviets' traditional stance is in favor of an international conference in the full sense of the word. They speak of the PLO taking part in the negotiations. This is their traditional position, again. You returned from your meetings with Soviet officials in Helsinki with some tidings on a softened Soviet stance. Do you believe this softening holds true today too, perhaps more so in the wake of the Shultz initiative?

[Novik] What I heard from the Soviets, quite unequivocally, is that what was presented to Mr Peres in his meeting with Shevardnadze remains the official Soviet stance today. In other words, the Soviet Union no longer insists on direct PLO participation in the negotiations, or on the conference as a binding forum capable of imposition, or on a united Palestinian delegation—it now accepts the possibility of a united Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. There are still some gaps between their stance and our conception of the conference as an umbrella for direct negotiations, with the umbrella having no powers regarding the negotiations. They still wanted to have certain spheres or issues addressed in a multilateral forum.

The formula I heard in Helsinki—and this surprised me greatly—sounded very familiar to me. They said: Perhaps we can create a situation whereby the bilateral, direct negotiations between Israel and the Jordanians, and between Israel and the Syrians, if they come, discuss the results of past conflicts, while deliberations in a multilateral forum will focus on shaping a better future for the Middle East. This formula sounded very familiar to me, until my Soviet interlocutor reminded me that this was Point No 8, if I am not mistaken, of Mr Peres' speech to the UN General Assembly last October. Namely, the Soviets apparently accept reference to the conference as a framework for direct, exclusive negotiations between the parties concerned, with the umbrella able to help in issues of common interest, such as economic development in the Middle East.

[Dayan] You mentioned Mr Peres, who today repeated the principle of territories in exchange for peace. In another forum Mr Shamir reiterated his rejection of an international conference. Do you believe, Dr Novik, that there is the slightest chance that the Israeli Government will present a united, consistent, and coherent position to Secretary Shultz, who is coming next week?

[Novik] I believe there is a chance for this. When Mr Peres proposed a joint meeting—first with regard to Murphy, and now joint work teams of the Foreign Ministry and the prime minister's office in preparation for Shultz' visit, as well as joint meetings with Shultz himself. He did not do this for nothing. I believe it is possible to bridge the gaps, surely with regard to the first

and main element of the Shultz or the emerging U.S. plan, which is the negotiations on an interim arrangement. Here there is almost no disagreement, and if we sit together and consult each other we will find creative solutions and be able to promote the initiative.

It is clear there is disagreement over the issue of territories in exchange for peace. As for the principle, I assume that the disagreement is less sharp, since Israeli Governments have always accepted UN Resolution 242, which is based on this principle. Camp David, after all, is based on Resolution 242, which is in turn based on this same principle. It may be easier to handle the principle. There is talk today of opening negotiations some time in mid-April with some sort of an international conference, immediately followed by 6 months of direct negotiations on an interim arrangement. I believe that gaps can be bridged and that we can go for this jointly.

[Dayan] Dr Nimrod Novik, thank you very much.

Tourism Minister's France, Spain Visits Canceled

TA172059 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] The French and Spanish Governments have canceled planned visits by Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the cancellation came in the wake of the situation in the territories. The two visits were supposed to reciprocate visits by the two countries' tourism ministers. The visit to France was scheduled for 7 March and the visit to Spain was set for April.

Peres Office Statement on Likud 'Defamation'

TA171407 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] Last night the office of the vice prime minister and foreign minister reacted for the first time to the attacks leveled at Shim'on Peres recently by the heads of the Likud.

The statement says: "The Likud has become a party of defamation. While the state and government are facing a difficult situation in the territories and are obliged to maintain simultaneously both a determined defense policy and a courageous peace policy. What the Likud deals with is a policy of defamation. This is national irresponsibility of the first order, and we have no intention of following the rude style used by the heads of the Likud."

The Labor Party reactions team sharply criticized Knesset Member Moshe Arens for his pointed attack on Peres. The Labor Party accused Arens of foiling Peres' peace initiative, which could have prevented the riots. Arens is now trying to find excuses for this by saying that the timing of the initiative was wrong.

Rabin Approves Limited Land for Peace Stance

TA151245 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] I support the principle of territories in exchange for peace. But, under no circumstances whatsoever, do I support an exchange for all the territories, as was the case with Egypt. This was stated today by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in a speech before high school students in Yehud.

Referring to the deportees' boat, Minister Rabin said the State of Israel is determined not to let them accomplish their goal. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT adds: "Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that the State of Israel is determined, within certain conditions, not to let the PLO achieve its goal with regard to the deportees' ship. The Israeli state will go about this matter in ways it sees fit. According to him, the PLO wants to translate media interest in the deportees' ship into a political achievement. The PLO cannot be allowed to infer that the solution lies in violence, the defense minister said."] Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] Peace with Egypt was a historical achievement. It created a new reality whereby peace with an Arab country is not a pipe dream, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said. He asked rhetorically: Did we not pay with territory for peace with Egypt?

[Rabin] The Egyptians insisted that Israel should withdraw from every centimeter of sovereign Egyptian soil that was conquered in the 6-Day War. The problem now is how to prevent a recurrence of such a precedent set by the return of all the territories in exchange for peace. Therefore, I find strange the attitude of people who were part of a coalition government that had to its credit the historic privilege of having attained peace, albeit in exchange for ceding the entire Sinai Peninsula and the eradication of Yamit and Ofira and all the settlements in the Rafah Approaches.

Peace that does not entail the eradication of settlements—this is the principle guiding my actions. I hope we will not have to repeat the precedent set then, and we must do everything we can to prevent a recurrence of the price we paid in exchange for peace with Egypt.

[Menashe] Rabin procceded to answer questions from the students concerning military service in the territories. He said that those who create a climate conducive to refusing to obey orders in the army are planting the seed for the annihilation of the State of Israel. Statements calling for disobeying orders are tantamount to calls for anarchy and the Lebanonization of the State of Israel.

[Rabin] The foundation of a democratic state is its complete control over its aggressive branch, in other words, the army. Any country giving an individual in uniform, or one called upon by law to wear a uniform to

defend his country's security, the right to decide according to his own whims and conscience which orders to obey and which to disobey—this would spell the end of the State of Israel.

[Menashe] The consensus concerning the IDF must be upheld, the defense minister stressed.

[Rabin] What would a left-wing Knesset member say to soldiers given orders to evacuate Yamit if soldiers of right-wing leanings were to refuse to carry out the orders? What would this Knesset member say? [end recording]

Shin Bet Interrogator of Hamden Faces Trial

TA180717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] The attorney general has decided to press criminal charges against a Shin Bet interrogator and take disciplinary action against two others in connection with the death of 'Awwad Hamdan 6 months ago. Hamdan died in Janin prison during an interrogation following his arrest. The Shin Bet report and a pathological examination showed he had died of pneumonia, but, following an appeal by his family, the Landau Committee [set up in 1987 to look into the Shin Bet's operations] determined that the report had been falsified. Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that the interrogator who is to face criminal charges is suspected of causing Hamdan's death through negligence. The two others who will face disciplinary action are suspected of lying to their superiors.

Steps Taken in Response to Extremists' Call

TA171740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] The Civilian Administration in the territories is initiating a series of steps as a result of the call of extremist elements to sever relations with the authorities. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that these steps were decided upon during discussions over the last few days.

Procedures for traveling from the territories to the Arab countries, as well as import and export procedures, are among other things that will be changed. To obtain permission for various projects the inhabitants will have to appeal to the military government and will have to prove that they have paid their taxes according to law. The regulations on the introduction of funds from the Arab countries have been toughened.

It was reported earlier that the National Insurance Institute is to stop paying allowances to East Jerusalem Arabs and Golan Heights Druze through their bank accounts. Henceforth they will receive the money at the Institute's branches after presenting their identity cards. At noon today the curfew was lifted on Qabatiyah in Samaria and the village of Si'r in the Hebron hills.

Palestinian Communists Protest 'Forged' Leaflets

TA182015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Communists in the territories claim that the military authorities are disseminating false leaflets to drive a wedge between them and other nationalist circles in the territories. According to them, a leaflet has recently been distributed, signed by the Palestinian Communist Party, which stated that the religious circles should be prevented from taking over the uprising in the territories. This leaflet was forged, according to the communists.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that RAKAH issued this announcement on behalf of communist circles in the territories. It states that the communists in the territories support the popular committees and accept their line of action.

Fatah Terrorist Sentenced to Life Imprisonment

TA171526 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Ahmad Qadr Mansur, an Israeli Arab from Al-Tira, who admitted to having been a member of the Fatah Organization and of having planted a bomb in a bus, was sentenced to life imprisonment today. More than 1 year ago Mansur planted a bus on a no 947 bus driving the Haifa-Jerusalem route. Eight people were wounded from the blast, some of them seriously.

'Central Leadership' of 'Uprising' Analyzed

TA121934 Tel Aviv HADASHOT (HADASHOT SHEL SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 12 Feb 88 pp 35, 37

[Article by Tzvi Gilat: "The Leadership of the Uprising"]

[Text] The uprising is complete. It is not an instinctive yanking away from another's grip, not a local spontaneous action. After 2 months there is already enough evidence that this is an organized operation. Thousands of rebels sit in East Jerusalem, in the Gaza Strip, and in the West Bank, completely attentive to the Al-Quds radio broadcasting from southern Syria. Clear instructions are broadcast alongside announcements, reports, and march songs. Instructions are broadcast, for instance, on when and how the commercial strike will take place. Last week, for example, merchants were notified they need not pay rent in the wake of the decline in their incomes.

The remarks of the broadcasts are tied in with what is written in the covert pamphlets. The pamphlets are distributed in the streets, signed by "The Unified National Command of the Uprising." The leaflets, the work of a printer or a computer, instruct the residents on how they should conduct themselves. For instance, they are told when exactly they can buy commodities. Another instruction is to refrain, at this stage, from using firearms against soldiers, and they are indeed refraining.

The radio and the leaflets are tied in with the messenger. The messenger calls on whoever should be briefed. The messenger is always anonymous. A child wearing a keffiyeh enters the East Jerusalem shops. It is either a child or an old woman who enters and utters only short sentences: Close the shop. Close it now. Close it tomorrow. The shopowner does not know the messenger. The messenger does not know the shopowner. After the message has been delivered he vanishes. I asked an East Jerusalem businessman: "How do you know that this child is a true messenger? Could it not be a child who has lost his senses?" The businessman replied: "We know. It is always a single child who comes."

The degree of coordination between the child, the radio, the pamphlet, and the conduct of the masses is high. Obviously the civilian uprising has a leadership and is organized. It is not by accident that everything began in the refugee camps of all places. It is not only because the reasons for the violent eruption are particularly poignant in the camps—hostility, humiliation, substandard living conditions, etc.—but also because it is very easy to trigger mass resistance in the camps. There is social homogeneity there. It is not necessary to get the people into the street in Jabalyah where 60,000 souls live on a single square kilometer. The people are there anyway.

The fire continually spreads. The 12-year-old boy who erected an improvised roadblock with younger kids was joined by mothers who are no longer afraid of anyone. These mothers were joined by their mothers and then by youths. Later, when the adults, the wage earners, feel that they too no longer have anything to lose, they will join the people. The refugee camps and the neighborhoods were joined by the towns, not the other way around. Due to the social differences and the geographic distances, the towns would not have joined the uprising, not with such coordination or obedience, had it not been for the leadership, a single central leadership that undertook to direct events.

Who are the members of the new leadership? They are still unknown. There is no precise identification, not by names anyway. In the territories, according to several sources—THE JERUSALEM POST was the first to report this—there is talk of a covert group. The number of its members is 15.

The breakdown of the members of the covert group is as follows: Representation of three people for each of the prominent streams in the local politics—three for the Fatah; three for the Popular Front; three for Jibril; three for the communists; and three for the religious. Reference is to groups which have so far engaged in an internal political struggle—the religious and the PLO, for instance —but they are now together, united. The members of the group meet in different combinations and pass on information and instructions via messengers after a certain decision is unanimously adopted. This is a covert leadership. It cannot expose itself today because of, among other reasons, fear of an anticipated Israeli reaction: imprisonment or deportation, or both. But they have another reason for secrecy. Their power lies in organization and operations, not in diplomacy.

In order to transmit a message to the activists on the street, to supervise an operation, to translate the street war to a political advantage, the members of the covert group need the help of other individuals. They need figures that are known to the media and the corridors of the Israeli administration. They need figures who have already turned into symbols; familiar eloquent figures such as Hanna Sinyurah and Dr Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, Sari Nusaybah and Bassam al-Shak'ah. These are not the leaders. Spokesmen, yes. Media people, yes. But they are people following guidance, following events but not directing them, not anymore today.

I asked Bassam al-Shak'ah this week what role he is playing today, under the present circumstances, as a local leader. Shak'ah, years after he was deposed by Israel from the Nabulus mayoral position, still refers to himself as "the chosen mayor." Al-Shak'ah laughed: "I am not a leader now. It is the people who lead. It is all the people that lead and I only sit amongst the people."

The Palestinian society in the territories is constructing a pyramid. The people are at the base of the pyramid. Something has happened to the people, to the little man in the street. A person gets up one morning and feels that he is the people and begins to walk, and this walking is powerful. It is precisely the large number of dead and wounded or beaten people that intensifies the feeling of strength and the awareness of self-respect.

"You with your clubs are strengthening us," I was told by a refugee camp youth, and I have heard this sort of remark time and again in the course of the last few weeks. "When I see a soldier beat someone, lay his hands on elderly people or women, I, blind with rage, tell him: Wait a minute, he is no better than me. I, the cleaner of your toilets, look at the soldier and say: I am worth more, I am better and I can face up to him."

"The people," Dr Mubarak 'Awad says in his East Jerusalem office, "the people have already recognized that liberty is not given as a present. One needs to sacrifice a lot for freedom, one's life too. Without this, one gets nothing, and it is precisely the common, hungry people who sacrifice the little they have that are sweeping everyone along to this understanding."

The people are going through a process. The construction of the pyramid is under way. Several organizations in East Jerusalem are engaged in preparing up to date and accurate lists of those killed, wounded, and beaten in the uprising of the last months.

It is very important for them to have an accurate list, free of exaggeration and as trustworthy as possible. This is new, but a fact. They know that any inaccuracy harms the cause itself. The data on the casualties—and it is very difficult to look at

this concentration of data—is sorted according to sex, circumstances of death, the identity of the dead, the site of death, names of witnesses if any, and so on.

For instance, a few days after the outbreak of incidents it was said in the territories that an elderly person of the 'Askar camp died after he was pushed off the roof of his house by soldiers. The list of casualties includes his name, 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Nabi, 70, under the headline "victims caused by other reasons" (the main page of the list is dedicated to victims caused by firing). Under the category of "killed by whom" one finds a question mark. It is not known whether this was by soldiers or by civilians. The circumstances of his death: He was arguing with soldiers on the roof of his house, later fell down, later suffered of a heart attack, and then died. One cannot catch them with inaccuracies.

I had the impression that the concentration of data was intended for outside propaganda needs, for distribution among television networks and various organizations active on behalf of the Palestinians. "You are mistaken," I was told by the person who coordinates this activity, "The material is mainly publicized here. The dissemination of the copies is mainly in Arabic, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, so that the people will know. It is the people who need to know what their condition is, the people. The revolutionary awareness of the people is of the utmost importance now. The people should know what the price is. The people should know they will have to continue to pay it."

The people form the base of the pyramid. At the top are the spokesmen, the famous personalities, those who are exposed to the media. Today, more than ever before, the top of the pyramid must be sensitive to the power and desires of the base, otherwise they will begin to totter. They have to hit right on the nail of what is termed the "wish of the people." A bad guess may be costly. They will fly off and crash down.

Sinyurah already had his car set on fire when he expressed the wish to be elected mayor of Jerusalem, and Sari Nusaybah was badly beaten after his contacts with Israelis were made public. The walks of life of the leadership are currently being examined under a magnifying glass. "When people get killed in the camps," I was told by an activist, "I cannot identify with a leader who continues to drive a BMW 518 and smokes cigars."

Still, here too "the people" or their representatives distinguish between a true leader and a person who is in such a position only by virtue of circumstances. When Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Center for Palestinian Studies in East Jerusalem, met with Moshe 'Amirav, a Herut member, nobody dared say a bad word about Al-Husayni. 'Amirav, in contrast, was kicked out of his party.

The top of the pyramid needs to be attached to the base. The base is examining the conduct of the top according to its attitude toward it. Fayiz Abu Rahmah is considered a familiar leader and a senior member of the top of the pyramid, but over the last month not only what he said was examined, but also how many bereaved families he went to comfort.

The question mark, the new leadership, is in the heart of the pyramid between the base (the people) and the turret (the spokesmen). This is the glue. This is the element that shapes and funnels the gust of wind blown by the people. One can only guess who is in this bloc. One cannot tell with certainty. "It surprises you that we organized so quickly," I am told by a Gaza jurist who is identified with the Popular Front. "It is surprising because you do not want to view us properly. Your Civilian Administration is looking for the yes-men to approve and justify its operation, and your Shin Bet is always engaged in details such as 'Where were you and what have you done?,' thus missing the general picture.

"There are things in this picture you do not want to see. Look, here in the Gaza Strip, 43,000 people have been imprisoned for various terms over the 20 years of occupation. This means at least 20,000 people who are active members of organizations. This amounts to a great deal of power. You should also know that everyone who gets out of prison, even if he had been innocent of any activity, does so as a member of one of the organizations, an obedient, dedicated, and committed member. The figure of 40,000 members in organizations in the Gaza Strip is something you should take into account, shouldn't you?"

"Everyone tries to belong to an organization," the man says. "Every person has an opinion, as do you. One may be for Fatah, another for the Popular Front, and still another for Jibril. The common denominator: Everybody accepts the idea of the PLO despite the different nuances. Political views are expressed in every framework, and every framework is political. A students committee is elected on a political basis. Workers associations are elected on a political basis. The trade unions are political, as are the sports associations. As much as you try to eliminate these groupings, political organizing is always going on. Now is the time to make it move."

Some people active on this level are known to the authorities. These include activists, union leaders, released prisoners. The ex-prisoner usually enjoys an attitude of respect and appreciation, among other things because he is seen as already "proven," is already ideological and more dedicated to the cause. He already knows something about organizing and self-discipline.

It is from this group that the shadow people emerge, those who make things happen, who pull the strings, who motivate forces, who direct the street, who pass the riots from one

camp to another. These must be anonymous. These, the glue, must also be sensitive to the base under them just as much as to the top of the pyramid above them.

At present the effort to consolidate the pyramid is much greater than the effort directed outward, which is meant to "make the messages clearer and to present the facts" to the world. It is now more important for the Palestinians across the Green Line to show the world that they are united, a nation, but only part of the Palestinian nation spread throughout Lebanon, Jordan, and the Gulf countries—that they are all one people led by only one authoritative leadership. This is what they are working on now. A political activist in the West Bank told me that "now is the time to establish the building, not to show it to tourists."

All parts of this pyramid, which is now being built, are in contact with the PLO leadership. The PLO is testing the Palestinian society in the territories and vice versa. When the uprising began the PLO was also caught by surprise. 'Arafat stuttered some words from Tunis, but at first did not know what was happening. Despite this everybody is now saying that the PLO is the sole leader and representative. It is important for them to stress unity. People in the territories are asking, however, whether the PLO will know how to make good use of the opportunity presented to it. Maybe yes, but this is not sure.

In the territories 'Arafat is seen as a national symbol who has been treading along clumsily for the last 20 years, tending toward the Soviets and courting the United States. Until the uprising the political picture in the territories reflected the events among the PLO leadership.

It seems that now, since the leadership in the territories is leading the struggle, an opposite process will take place. In Gaza, for example, the strength of the Muslim fundamentalists is great. They are organized in secret and very efficient cells and are extremely dedicated to the idea of "correcting society from within." On the eve of the uprising a rare coalition was formed between zealous Muslims and leftists, something that does not exist in the PLO. Will this coalition affect the leadership? The people tuning in to Al-Quds radio, to the PLO radio in Baghdad, or to Radio Monte Carlo which broadcasts many interviews with 'Arafat, want to hear what will be said. Will the PLO understand what "the people want?"

After the curfew began in the Gaza Strip, trucks loaded with food sent by Golan Heights Druze were greeted by the inhabitants with the shout: "The PLO sent us this food." The PLO did not send this food, but the people wanted to believe that the leadership was concerned for them. Is it concerned? The PLO is connected to the base, the heart, and the top of the pyramid. There is not always a connection between the various parts of the pyramid themselves, but there is almost no way to prevent communication with the outside. Distances are short, there are telephones, messengers, and a facsimile message can be picked up in Cyprus within 2 minutes. The PLO is tested to see whether it will know how to use these channels of communication correctly. New people are rising now, and the PLO is being tested on whether it will listen to them. In principle the PLO is anxious. It may lose its supremacy and representation in the struggle.

In 1976, when the National Guidance Committee was established, its members constantly reiterated that they had been elected to deal with municipal issues only and not to represent the Palestinians as a nation. The municipal issues included the struggle to preserve lands, struggle against the settlements, and even though the Israeli authorities tried to impose limitations on this body, it grew stronger. Its members were forbidden to convene. On days of planned sessions they were confined to their towns—Bassam al-Shak'ah to Nabulus and Karim Khalaf to Ramallah. Nevertheless they met in pairs, they spoke over the telephone, they conveyed messages via a messenger to another pair who met in another place. They had power, and at the time the PLO was concerned—and rightly so, from its point of view—that an alternative leadership would be established.

'Arafat, who is more of a media symbol than a man who makes history, has to see to it that this does not become too obvious. He will be tested by his ability to pass funds to support the uprising and by the status he gives the representatives of the territories in the leadership. In East Jerusalem there is a person who monitors Al-Quds radio, where he can hear Jibril Rajub, one of the recent deportees. Rajub is encouraging his brethren in their struggle. The monitor knows him and enjoys hearing his voice.

He told me: "I am happy to hear his voice. I saw him after he was released from prison. He was scared of his own shadow. He worked on an East Jerusalem women's newspaper which carries ads for diapers and advocates chauvinistic views. He was unhappy with his situation, afraid to open his mouth for fear the authorities would harass him. Now I am listening to him and he is blossoming. I can hear it in his voice. He is speaking, he is alive, albeit with the heavy price of being cut away, but he is alive."

The monitor was also happy for him. "Rajub is a guy who went through everything here, who knows what is going on, who is familiar with the rift between the national leadership and the people. He is a guy who can tell 'Arafat the whole truth to his face." Another hero has been born. For this monitor, 'Arafat is being tested by his ability to cultivate the new hero and to give him all due honor and attention.

A short time after the uprising in the territories started Knesset Member [MK] Darawshah presented Rabin with a list of Palestinian notables. Darawshah claimed that the list had been prepared during consultations and talks between well-known political figures in the West

Bank and Gaza Strip. According to Darawshah, Rabin did not react to the initiative, which was one of the reasons that led to the resignation of the Arab MK from the Labor Party.

The list Darawshah submitted includes 12 names, with an option to include two more:

From Gaza—Fayiz Abu Rahmah and Khalid al-Hidrah, who are prominent lawyers. Abu Rahmah is a relative of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and was a candidate for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for the international conference, when there was still talk of one.

From Hebron—Fayiz al-Qawasimah and Mustafa al-Natshah, both members of the most important families in the city and relatives of the former mayor, the late Fahd al-Qawasimah, and the deposed mayor, Dr Hamza al-Natshah.

From Bethlehem—Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who is known to be close to Husayn.

From Jerusalem—AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah; Ziyad Abu Zayyad, a lawyer and former editor of AL-FAJR; Sari Nusaybah, a Bi'r Zayt University lecturer and son of the late Anwar Nusaybah; and Ibrahim Qar'in, a newspaper editor.

From Ramallah—'Abd al-Karim al-Rayyan, a pharmacist and chairman of the Red Crescent Organization in the West Bank. He was detained last week.

From Nabulus—Sa'id Kan'an, a merchant and relative of former mayors Hamdi Kan'an and Bassam al-Sha-k'ah, who were among the leaders of the National Guidance Committee.

The team of 12 wanted to include another 2 who are currently under administrative detention: Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Institute for Arab Studies in East Jerusalem; and Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, chairman of the Journalists Association. Rabin was to prove his goodwill and desire for a dialogue by releasing the two from detention and including them in the list.

It is obvious that the preparation of the list was influenced by the consideration of with whom the defense minister will want to speak, and also by the desire to represent the central group of the PLO—the centrist, more pragmatic stream in Fatah. The list did not include representatives of the communists, the ultra-right, and the Muslim fundamentalists who are very powerful in the Gaza Strip. As mentioned above, Rabin did not meet the group. Today it seems that even a meeting such as this is impossible.

Rashad al-Shawwa, former Gaza mayor, sits as always in his luxurious office, and in the many armchairs in his room sit people who are usually termed "notables." They are, in fact, Al-Shawwa's men and his lackeys. This is exactly how they sat here 10 years ago. Al-Shawwa is giving a telephone interview to the BBC, citing demographic figures, repeating the well-known messages. Al-Shawwa has remained just as he was 10 years ago.

—So with whom should Israel speak now, Mr al-Shawwa?

"With the PLO," says Al-Shawwa, who was once considered to be the bridge to King Husayn. "Only with the PLO. There is no point in me talking with you about your security or my work." Al-Shawwa realizes that he is not an authentic representative of the nation of slaves, but at present he has the role of spokesman. He therefore has to express the position of the man-in-the-street, because the man-in-the-street wields the power now.

—Mr al-Shawwa, what is new in this message? What is new in the situation?

"Fifteen years ago you could find only five or six people who had the courage to speak publicly about an independent Palestinian nation. Today even small children in the streets are not afraid to say what they want and this is new. Today people are willing to make sacrifices for this, and this is also new. Today might be your last minute to speak with us, and this is also new.

When I see the frustration of the youths in the streets I know what bad results will come out of this. What will happen if these youths take up arms? A terrible massacre, terrible results for us, but also for you. How long will you persist in your recalcitrance? Today the Arab world is weak, but within 20 or 30 years it will have the power. The power will come, and that will be bad, very bad." The notables, most of whom do not speak English, nod in affirmation. The personal waiter will come momentarily to serve them all sweet tea.

In other places, in Jerusalem and in the West Bank, people are trying to close the gap between the top of the pyramid and its base, between the high society with the European mannerisms and the populace in the camps. Such a rift is no longer feasible, not when so much power is being wielded by the common people.

Mubarak 'Awwad, the prophet of "civil disobedience," now occupies an East Jerusalem office. The PLO flag hangs on the wall, as if we were sitting in a semi-official PLO representation.

'Awwad belongs to Hanna Sinyurah's circle, a partly intellectual, partly academic, and a partly media oriented Jerusalem group. The group also includes lawyers Jonathan and Da'ud Kutab and has certain links with Ramallah lawyer Raja Shihadah and with Sari Nusaybah from Bi'r Zayt.

Sinyurah travels throughout the world, meets leaders and spreads new idea. Nobody knows precisely who is behind them.

'Awwad considers himself obligated to supply such ideas. For example, he is very sensitive to the fact that he has been given this role in the political game thanks to his fluent English, his contacts with foreign sources, and his intellectual appeal. A media leader, nothing else. Today he is trying to close the gap between himself and the people in the camps, because he is very much aware that this is where the source of power is. He believes that the meeting between himself and the people is very significant.

At the height of the "iron fist" days several weeks ago, 'Awwad met several youths who are among the leaders of one of the West Bank camps. The youths proposed kidnapping an Israeli youth, breaking his hands and legs and leaving him wounded in a Jewish center inside a car which would have signs reading something like "We too know how to break hands."

'Awwad says, "This is a desperate idea, but I can understand how it arose." 'Awwad said he spent a long time trying to dissuade them. 'Awwad told me: "You can understand yourself that all it would take would be one such wounded boy to loosen the reins still inhibiting your soldiers and for us to lose the whole propaganda advantage we have achieved. When you beat us up our youths feel superior to you."

'Awwad thinks he is influencing the young generation by preserving his independence and by saying things publicly. He says that "Israel is greatly helping the spread of my civil disobedience ideas." As an example he cites the commercial strike, a form of passive resistance. Due to the commercial strike Israel imposed a curfew on Al-Tur, a part of united Jerusalem. All it would take now to prove to all the world that there is no difference between Palestinians wherever they are is for Israel to force East Jerusalem merchants to open their shops. All it would take to emphasize Palestinian unity is for Israel to close down his office and deport somebody from East Jerusalem.

He has other ideas, and he is convinced that Israel will help him implement them—severing telephone lines, self-imposed curfew, mass resignation of the Civil Administration workers. What will happen when this takes place? Who will supply the food, pick up the garbage, fix the sewage system in the refugee camps? IDF soldiers? UN observers?

'Awwad does not hide the fact that the dialogue with the people in the camps is important for him, that it influences him and his group. In what way? "After Sinyurah proposed boycotting Israeli cigarettes as part of the civil disobedience campaign, they told us: 'People here are giving up their lives and you are giving up cigarettes?' We took note of this remark.

The people in the camps are saying other things. They are saying that they want the affluent sectors to contribute more to the struggle. It is no coincidence, therefore, that they started a contribution campaign among the merchants and the affluent. It is no coincidence that even the Christians from Bethlehem are participating in protest marches. Everyone is being pressured into joining. The entire society is being tested now to see whether it has matured. Everybody is looking at each other, examining each other.

"In the camps they are telling us: 'Who are you to speak for us? Why should you mingle with the consuls and correspondents? We want to speak, we have something to say.'" So 'Awwad, instead of wandering around the lobby of the nearby American Colony Hotel, instead of sitting with congressmen in the National Palace, is taking the congressmen to Balatah or to 'Askar. He says that "At present everyone is doing his best to convey the Palestinian message." And this is exactly what he is doing, even through this conversation with me.

Something new is being created in the territories. Is there anybody there to talk with now?

There are growing signs that indicate that those Palestinians in the territories who are interested in a dialogue with Israel have understood that they must bypass the leadership—Rabin, Shamir and Peres—and turn directly to the people.

The power of the traditional leadership in the territories has also been exhausted. Contacts, albeit few, are being formed with professional groups—artists, intellectuals, and psychologists—who are being invited to the territories. The attitude toward correspondents is tolerant and even protective. There is a call for some kind of dialogue, which is perhaps partly tactical.

Samira Khalil, the only female in the National Guidance Committee, has again published a "letter to the Israeli mother," in which she calls for cooperation and understanding between mothers. She published such a letter in the past, at the height of the Lebanon war.

The Lebanon war, in the view of the lawyer from Gaza, is the model for what will happen here if things continue at the present rate. He says: "I do not know what the new leadership's tactics are here. There are certainly several tactical points of view. It is certain only that they will make a supreme effort to keep your army pinned down to the camps.

"Everybody is saying that the present uprising is only the beginning. There will be additional waves, more serious and deadlier. The regular army will not be able to withstand this and reserve soldiers will have to be brought in. As the situation becomes crueler, still more stories will emerge. The information will reach more and more families and everybody will lose patience and strength. It may take a year, 2 years or more until 400,000 Israelis go to the city square and change the situation [refering to the mass demonstration in Tel Aviv following the Sabra and Shatila massacre]."

More on U.S. Kidnapping Victim Lt Col Higgins

Kidnappers Want Exchange

NC181744 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1725 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Amal Movement official 'Abd al-Majid Salih, who met with Higgins a short while before he was kidnapped, stressed that the kidnappers are determined to exchange the foreign hostages for detainees held abroad.

Amal Has 'Clues' to Abductors

NC182151 Paris AFP in English 2126 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Tyre, Lebanon, Feb 18 (AFP)—United Nations envoy Marrack Goulding travelled to southern Lebanon Thursday, where a search was under way for a kidnapped American officer attached to the U.N. peacekeeping force.

Mr. Goulding met General Gustav Hagglund, comander of the United Nations Interim Force in southern Lebanon, at his Al-Naqurah headquarters south of here to discuss the abduction Wednesday of Lieutenant Colonel William Richard Higgins, UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel said.

The Shi'ite Amal Movement, which controls the south Lebanon region near Tyre where Lt. Col. Higgins was kidnapped, said it had "clues" to the identity of the abductors.

"We will continue our efforts to find the officer," said Da'ud Da'ud, executive chairman of Amal, which has launched a search operation. United Nations forces were also combing the area Thursday.

Correspondents in the region said Amal concentrated its search operations in the eastern Tyre district, where witnesses said that the U.S. officer was driven by his abductors.

One Amal official told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the exhaust pipe of the abductors' car, a Volvo, had been found on a dirt road leading to the Shi'ite village of Btillayah, 89 kilometers (55 miles) south of Beirut.

The official said that Amal had arrested a militant of the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement, which along with Amal has positions in the area. Sources close to the militia said meanwhile that Amal would be carrying out searches in three villages in the area.

The kidnapping of Lt Col Higgins, 43, the deputy commander of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), came 12 days after two Scandinavian U.N. relief workers were abducted in southern Lebanon.

"It is a very serious situation," said Mr. Goulding, the U.N. assistant secretary general for the Near East, who interrupted a regional tour to return to Beirut from Damascus to investigate the abduction at the request of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Mr. Goulding said he did not know whether the kidnappings were aimed at undermining the U.N. presence in Lebanon.

"What I can say is that this incident does obviously have an effect on the readiness of governments to send their people, whether it is military officers or civilians, to work in Lebanon," he added. [passage omitted]

Earlier Abduction Attempt

NC182234 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2220 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Citing security sources in Tyre, REUTER reports that gunmen tried to kidnap Higgins in the Tyre area 10 days ago, but a UN convoy that was passing at the time foiled the attempt. A security source has described the kidnappers as professional, saying that they may have had full details about Higgins and his movements.

Birri: 'Blow' to Resistance

NC190632 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has described the kidnapping of the U.S. officer as an act going beyond the Amal Movement's red lines. He added that he regards the abduction as a blow to the south and the resistance, and said that it is targeted first and foremost against the Amal Movement.

He pointed out that he has information about the kidnapping party. However, he added: We cannot say that this is the same party that has kidnapped the two UNRWA employees.

Further on Search, Arrests

NC190703 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] How is the search for Higgins proceeding? The Amal Movement and the international force are concentrating their search in the area southeast of Sidon. UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel has stated that the blue berets are conducting their own investigations in this sector, which is under the control of Amal, but in which the fundamentalist Hizballah has a presence as well. Goksel expressed the hope that Higgins is still in this area.

Amal has stationed its members at vital points on the coastal road. Other Amal members are also patrolling the area in military vehicles.

A military official from the Amal Movement has disclosed that the exhaust pipe of the Volvo automobile, into the trunk of which the kidnappers forced Lieutenant

Colonel Higgins, has been found. The same official said that the Movement arrested a follower of Hizballah in Al-Mansuri on Wednesday night, adding that they will continue to make arrests.

The Israeli radio reported this morning that the Amal Movement arrested scores of Hizballah followers yesterday during the search for Higgins. It cited a Muslim scholar with close connections to Hizballah who said that the kidnapping was meant as an action against the United States, not the United Nations. The scholar stated that Higgins was kidnapped because he is American.

According to informed sources in Sidon, the Amal Movement intends to search three villages in the south where fundamentalists have a strong presence.

Amal Detains Six in Tyre

NC190924 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] AP has reported that the Amal Movement, which is searching for the kidnapped U.S. officer, detained six people in Tyre this morning. The six are Muslim fundamentalists who are believed to be linked to the kidnapping.

Da'ud Cited on Investigation

NC191204 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] The search for U.S. Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins is continuing as Amal Movement gunmen and UNIFIL are cooperating in establishing roadblocks.

Da'ud Da'ud, the Amal Movement's Executive Committee chairman, has stated that there are factors which clearly indicate who carried out the abduction. However, he did not wish to disclose their identity. He said: We in the Amal Movement are continuing the search and gathering information.

Meanwhile, security sources in the area have said that some places were stormed in a number of villages and towns last night.

New Group Claims Abduction

TA191213 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Another terrorist organization has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of U.S. Colonel William Higgins. The Oppressed of the World [Munazzamat al-Mustad'afin fil 'Alam] informed UPI in Beirut that its men are holding the U.S. officer. The organization added that Higgins is a CIA agent, and that his work in the UN observers force was merely a cover for his espionage activities. The note was handwritten in Arabic. Photocopies of two identity cards, allegedly belonging to Higgins—one in English and one in Hebrew—were attached to it. The photograph of the officer and his signature could be seen on both of them.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that Washington blames the kidnapping on Hizballah men and does not attach special importance to the name of this or that organization assuming responsibility for the kidnapping.

UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding says that intense searches are continuing on the assumption that Higgins is still being held in southern Lebanon. He emphasized that the U.S. Administration is being updated and has no intention of conducting any operation whatsoever in Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Goulding made these remarks in a news conference at UNIFIL headquarters in Al-Naqurah. He added that the U.S. officers with the observers force had told him that despite what had happened to their commander Col Higgins, they want to stay in Lebanon and continue their mission.

Higgins 'Still in the South'

NC191242 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1222 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] According to security information available to the Voice of Lebanon, Colonel Higgins is still in the south and has not been moved outside the area, as had been reported. According to our information, he is being held in Qabrikha, in the Tyre area, specifically in a house owned by the Hijazi family.

Hizballah on Arrests, Searches

NC191513 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] In a statement issued a short while ago, Hizballah has accused the Amal Movement of carrying out search operations, during which it has arrested about 150 Hizballah members in the Tyre and Al-Nabatiyah regions, under the pretext of searching for U.S. kidnap victim William Higgins.

According to the Hizballah statement, Amal gunmen stormed the Cultural Center of the Iranian Revolution, as well as the Islamic Center of the Iranian Embassy, ransacking both. Other Amal gunmen raided the so-called Islamic Resistance Notices Center, seizing its electronic and radio equipment. Another group of Amal gunmen stormed the home of Imam 'Abbas al-Musawi.

Aimed at U.S., Not UN

NC191546 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Shaykh 'Ali Yasin, a religious leader close to Hizballah, has stated that the kidnapping operation was targeted against the United States and not against the United Nations. He said that Higgins was kidnapped because he is an American. If the kidnapping had had another objective, the kidnappers would have chosen another person.

Organization Makes 3 Demands

NC191610 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1535 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] [Passage indistinct] and that he works for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and that he exploits his job with the UN forces to carry out dangerous espionage missions.

An organization calling itself the Islamic Revolutionary Brigades had earlier claimed responsibility for the kidnapping.

A statement by the Oppressed in the World Organization asserted that the U.S. colonel is the neck of the criminal U.S. snake and is an agent of the diabolic intelligence service.

The organization made three demands for (?his release). The first demand asks for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Lebanese territories. The second demand is for the release of all Lebanese and Palestinian detainees in the Al-Khiyam prison and in all Israeli prisons in occupied Palestine. The third demand calls for halting all forms of U.S. intervention in Lebanon and abstaining from sending more envoys, who are trying to contain the uprising in the occupied territories.

UNTSO Officers Moved to Al-Naqurah Headquarters

NC182126 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] According to UN sources, the officers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Commission [UNTSO] were withdrawn from their offices in southern Lebanon today and returned to the UNTSO headquarters in Al-Naqurah.

Western Diplomatic Missions Take Precautions

NC182033 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] According to Western diplomatic sources, targeted diplomatic missions in Beirut have received instructions to take the strictest precautions and to advise their diplomats and nationals not to move about except in an emergency because of the fear of possible abductions.

The same sources note that there is an exchange of information among the accredited missions regarding the security situation in order to provide more protection for their nationals and diplomats.

4 Charged in Bombing Attempt on Al-Jumayyil Plane

NC190719 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Four persons currently being detained in connection with the attempted bombing of the presidential plane have been charged with witholding information. Military Investigator As'ad Diyab has ordered their continued detention. A fifth man, who had also been detained for questioning, has been released.

Al-Jumayyil on Ties With Egypt, Sudan, Syria

NC151850 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Feb (MENA)—Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil has praised President Husni Mubarak's policy and has expressed his appreciation for the political endeavors the president has undertaken recently. He added that President Mubarak, who is quite aware of the serious situation currently prevailing in the Arab world, is working to achieve Arab reconciliation and to serve Arab interests.

In an interview with the MENA correspondent in Khartoum on the occasion of his current visit to Sudan, the Lebanese president lauded the results of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last November, which he described as an important turning point in the Arab march. He noted in this connection the favorable atmosphere that prevailed at the summit must reflect on inter-Arab relations in general, and must be used to the benefit of us all. The Lebanese president expressed certainty that this atmosphere is bound to promote inter-Lebanese reconciliation, referring in this respect to the much appreciated and incessant efforts exerted toward that end by His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan.

Regarding Lebanese-Syrian relations, President al-Jumayyil stressed that Lebanon has shown only goodwill and sincere feelings toward Syria right from the beginning. He emphasized that the aim of Lebanon's policy is to reestablish Syrian-Lebanese relations on the basis of amity and Syria's respect for Lebanon's sovereignty. The Lebanese president affirmed that Lebanon takes Syria's interests into account. He added: We must put our hands together to save Lebanon, give momentum to the peace process in the region, and ensure the Palestinian people's interests, thus rendering a service to Lebanon, the Arabs, and the entire world. President al-Jumayyil noted that there are several initiatives in this respect. He expressed hope that these would be successful, and stressed that Lebanon is working to promote them. The president added: We have gone a long way toward that objective out of a desire to serve the interests of both Lebanon and Syria.

He pointed out that the peoples and officials of the two countries, particularly Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, are convinced of the need to remove the "summer clouds" that passed over Lebanese-Syrian relations and to establish new relations based on common interest.

Referring to the role of the big powers in solving the Lebanese and Arab problems, President al-Jumayyil expressed the belief that in their summit meetings the big powers place the Lebanese situation in particular, and the Middle East situation in general, at the bottom of their agenda. He said: What we perceive to be of vital importance to us is of marginal importance to the big powers.

At the conclusion of his interview, President al-Jumayyil affirmed that Lebanon wants an end to its problem so that it can fulfill its cultural role everywhere. He noted: Lebanon could play a pioneering role as an example of genuine coexistence among people. This is the secret of Lebanon's survival and the goal of the comprehensive Lebanese national resistance in this historic period.

Fighting in Beirut; Bomb Dismantled 18 Feb

NC190723 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Fighting broke out last night on the combat lines of Al-Tayyunah, Mar Mikha'il, Galerie Sim'an, Galerie Za'tar, and the Red Shoe areas [in Beirut]. Mortars, RPG's, and machineguns were used in the clashes.

A Syrian bomb expert yesterday dismantled an explosive charge which was placed in a corner inside the Bayrut Movie Theater in Al-Barbir [in West Beirut].

'Armed Alert' After Forces Member Killed

NC181347 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Security sources have reported that an armed alert has existed in the Badaru, Furn al-Shubbak, Sami al-Sulh, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah areas [in East Beirut] since yesterday's murder of Lebanese Forces member George al-Asmar as he was guarding a Lebanese Forces security point in 'Ayn al-Rummanah.

The security sources said that the shooting heard in the eastern area at 1115 today was because of Al-Asmar's funeral.

Libyan Secretary Received by Economy Minister

JN181600 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Damascus, 18 Feb (SANA)—Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, received here today Muhammad Lutfi Farhat, Libyan secretary of planning, who is currently visiting Syria. Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, was present

During the meeting, they reviewed relations between Syria and Libya, particularly in the field of economic cooperation and trade, and spheres for promoting and consolidating them.

Information Minister Receives Ambassadors

JN171942 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Damascus, 17 Feb (SANA)—Information Minister Muhammad Salman received PRC Ambassador in Damascus Wang Changyi here today. During the meeting, the PRC ambassador expressed his country's appreciation for Syria's struggle on the first line of confrontation against Israel and Zionism.

The PRC ambassador also praised Syria's role in supporting the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories, stressing that the PRC condemns Israel's repressive policy and that this policy will not be able to subdue the militant spirit of the Palestinian people. He also touched on the situation in the Arabian Gulf, voicing his country's appreciation for Syria's role in stabilizing the situation there. They also discussed media cooperation between the two countries.

The information minister also received SFRY Ambassador in Damascus Davorin Kostanjsek for talks on friendly relations between Syria and the SFRY. They discussed media cooperation within the framework of the joint efforts of the nonaligned countries to explain the problems of the developing countries and confront Zionist and imperialist attempts to harm the struggle of the national liberation forces.

Al-Asad's Son New Defense Companies Head

NC182035 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] According to Arab diplomatic sources, Basil al-Asad, son of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, was recently appointed commander of the Syrian Defense Companies. The previous commander of the Defense Companies was Rif'at al-Asad, the brother of the Syrian president.

Afghanistan

Envoy Rejects Pakistani Call for Interim Regime

BK190824 Hong Kong AFP in English 0814 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 19 (AFP)—Afghanistan cannot accept Pakistan's demand that an interim government be established in Kabul before Soviet troops withdraw, the Afghan ambassador to India said here Friday. "We reject in principle, categorically, the Pakistani demand," Ambassador 'Abdul Samad Azhur told a news conference. "It is against our sovereignty."

"It is only logical that foreigners cannot decide what type of government Afghanistan should have," he added.

The ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan was, however, working on a unilateral creation of "a broad-based coalition government." But some problems existed, Mr Azhur said. "How long it will take, we can't say." Exiled King Zahir Shah could participate in a coalition government, he said.

The press conference came a day after Pakistani President Muhammed Ziaul Haq said a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan without a change of government could lead to bloodshed and continued civil war.

Mr Azhur said President Zia's stand created "new obstacles" to ending the war and claimed that a great majority of Afghan rebels desired peace. But "some circles in the United States, Pakistan, and a few Arab nations are not interested in peace," he added.

Pakistan has said it will not sign Geneva accords on Soviet troop withdrawal with the Najibullah regime, while the Afghan resistance has said it will not accept a ceasefire till a mujahidin government replaces the Marxist one.

If the United States and Pakistan continued to arm and finance the Afghan rebels, "the situation will be very tense and nobody can predict the consequences," Mr Azhur said. The ambassador said that if the Muslim guerrillas believed they enjoyed support among the Afghan people, they should fight elections under new election laws to be announced by Kabul soon.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said he would order the pull out of his estimated 115,000 troops from May 15 if an agreement was reached by mid-March, adding the phased withdrawal would be completed in 10 months.

Najibullah, Gorbachev Peace Initiatives Praised

LD190913 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 18, BAKHTAR—A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The statements of President Najibullah and Mikhail Gorbachev, regarding the speedy settlement of situations around Afghanistan, which have the backing of our people and those around the world, indicate the fact that the peaceful policy of Afghan and Soviet leaderships, as the manifestation of new political thinking, has not been adopted from a position of weakness, but on the contrary, they demonstrate the moral strength, wisdom and greatness, truthful and responsible leaders with their anxiety over the present and future of Afghanistan.

Our country's state figures and political personalities have assessed these statements as resolute and satisfactory, and as Afghanistan and Soviet Union's good political intention towards the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan.

This historical move has left no pretext to those who wanted to exploit the continuation of the tension of the situation around Afghanistan, since emphasis was laid on the priority for the time table of the pull out of Soviet limited military contingents from Afghanistan.

Now that this desire has been fulfilled, Afghan and world peoples are looking forward to constructive accords and practical steps by the opposite side in the Geneva talks. They have no doubt that the national reconciliation policy has provided real ground for the return of Soviet limited military forces from the Afghan territory to their peaceful country. This would be done once the Geneva accords are signed.

Undoubtedly, the progress of the Geneva talks, despite all the hurdles on its way, have reached its vital and historical stage through the peaceful initiatives, good political intention, needed flexibility and sincere interest of the Republic of Afghanistan.

It has been Afghanistan and Soviet Union that have vitalized the Geneva talks process and provided appropriate grounds for their success. Time has reached for the opposite side to prove how sincerely it is interested in the solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

Politburo Discusses Domestic Issues, Policies

LD182030 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] A periodic session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held today. Based on the decisions of the second nationwide party conference, in order to improve the attraction of the toilers' children to school, and to provide assistance to the poor families of the country, the Politburo assessed the issue of the free distribution of breakfast, uniforms, and teaching equipment for school children.

The Politburo pointed out that during the second PDPA conference it was stressed that in order to contribute to the sound training of the new generation, the allocation of funds

should be assessed to provide breakfast and school uniforms, including shoes for students. This step will provide a noticeable contribution to families' budgets.

The Politburo advised that the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan should carry out necessary measures to acquire financial sources and prepare eight items of goods, including milk, flour, sugar, materials [as heard], uniforms, shoes, and socks for the students in primary schools, and teaching materials such as pencils, notebooks, and erasers for all school students in the new acadamic year and to prepare these materials and send them to the provinces. It should use the assistance of the relevant bodies in order to organize this matter.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo discussed the issue of accelerating the establishment of cultural centers in the country's provinces. It pointed out that at the June 1366 [November 1987] PDPA Central Committee Plenum discussed the issue of establishing cultural centers in Balkh, Nangarhar, Paktia, Qandahar, and Herat provinces to enable work to be carried out among the nomads and the regions where the returnees are located. A number of state offices and social organizations pledged that they would organize the establishment of these centers. However, it has been assessed that they have not still shown decisiveness and firmness in handling this matter. They have not put into practice their pledges and have not approved the designs for these centers. They also have not specified the sources to finance the construction of the centers.

The Politburo advised the state offices and social organizations to accelerate the work as soon as possible to establish these centers.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo assessed the issue of 8 March, International Women's Day. It pointed out that International Women's Day, 8 March 1988, will be celebrated on 19 Hut 1366 [9 March 1988]. The women in our country will celebrate this year with great hopes of ensuring nationwide peace and a better life.

The Afghan people, despite all the obstacles and difficulties being created by the enemies of reconciliation, have achieved noticeable gains in the process to end the fratricidal war and ensure nationwide peace. The influence and credibility of people's power has expanded more than at any other time. Measures for the country's socioeconomic development have been taken and put into practice. The new Afghan Constitution has confirmed womens' rights in a satisfactory manner and has paved the way for their active participation in political, social, and economic life.

In conditions of reconciliation, the ranks of the women's movement have been consolidated and the role and prestige of Afghanistan's Nationwide Women's Council has succeeded in attracting and absorbing the country's women to campaign for the implementation of the national reconciliation policy. The Politburo approved 8 March as a day to be celebrated all over Afghanistan under the slogan of "Afghanistan's Women: United and Cohesive, Fighting Actively for the Implementation of the National Reconciliation Policy!"

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo also assessed a number of international and domestic issues.

Mas'ud Delivers Speech at Scientific Conference

LD190725 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 18, BAKHTAR—A scientific conference entitled: "One Year of National Reconciliation—Results and Problems" was opened here in the hall of social sciences institute of the Central Committee of the PDPA.

At the outset of the conference Haydar Mas'ud, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA delivered a speech on the role and significance of the conference in solution of the problems in the present stage of the policy of the party and state of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Pointing to the achievements of national reconciliation in the past year, he added, the PDPA and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan demand from the young scholars of the country to do more in realization of national accord in the country.

Candidate academician 'Abdul Samad Ghafari, chairman of the Social Sciences Institute of the Central Committee of the PDPA read out his article under the title "Role of the PDPA in Realization of the Policy of National Accord".

A number of the responsibles of the Central Committee of the PDPA, Council of Ministers, representatives of social organisations, the Academy of Sciences and Kabul University have participated in the conference which lasts two days.

Briefs

Soviet Transport Official Visits

Muhammad 'Aziz, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, met Arkadaiy Andreyevich Suvorov, deputy minister of RSFSR Ministry of Motor Transportation, this afternoon at the Council of Ministers headquarters. Present at this meeting, were the ministers of transportation and commerce; deputy head of the administration affairs of the Council of Ministers; and A. Petrov adviser and plenipotentiary of the USSR Embassy in Kabul. Talks were held on improving the motor transportation situation in the Republic of Afghanistan. [Text] [*Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Feb 88 LD*]

India

7 Killed, 61 Injured in Punjab Bomb Blasts

BK191258 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1235 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] In Punjab, 7 persons were killed and 61 injured today in a series of bomb blasts in the district courts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, and Patiala. In Amritsar, 1 person was killed and 19 injured. Two persons were killed and 30 injured, 5 of them seriously, in Gurdaspur, while in Hoshiarpur, 1 woman was killed and 11 injured, two of them seriously. In Patiala, three persons were killed and one injured.

Earlier reports said 13 people were killed and 19 injured.

Foreigners Banned From Rajasthan Border Area

BK190925 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] The government has declared the area between Ganganagar and Sanchor in Rajasthan to be a protected area. The measure taken under the Foreigners Act will become effective from 1 April this year.

According to an official press release issued in New Delhi today, the area between National Highway No 15 and the international border cannot be entered by a foreigner without obtaining a permit from the prescribed authority. The measure is expected to check infiltration and smuggling activities across the border to a great extent.

Ziaul Haq Remarks 'Totally Unacceptable'

BK181626 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] New Delhi has once again reminded Islamabad that Jammu and Kashmir remains an integral part of India and the only issue which remains to be resolved, is that of vacation of Indian territory occupied illegally by Pakistan. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said this evening that India and Pakistan should settle this issue like other issues in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

The spokesman strongly objected to President Ziaul Haq's remarks made at the so-called International Conference on Islamic Unity in Islamabad on Tuesday and regretted that the Pakistan president has chosen to make totally unacceptable references to Kashmir and Muslims and our country.

President Ziaul Haq says he wants normalization of relations with India but does not shy away from using force in Siachen. He makes out that he wants to promote peace in the subcontinent, but devotes his efforts to thwart the process of the Afghan settlement when it has reached a crucial stage.

The spokesman said General Ziaul Haq has his own problems and compulsions. Does he serve the interests of the people of the subcontinent with his unfriendly statements, the spokesman asked.

Replying to a question by newsmen, the spokesman said it is not India which attacked Pakistani positions but Pakistan herself which attacked Indian positions in Siachen. He said this has not been denied by Pakistan.

Pant Concerned Over Pakistani Naval Build-Up

BK190332 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Pant, has said that the massive naval build-up in our neighborhood has to be seriously viewed as this can harm our economic and defense interests. Addressing the parliamentary consultative committee of his ministry, he said Pakistan is acquiring tactical missiles, submarines, and destroyers. Over 100 warships are present in the vicinity of the Indian Ocean. He said India is a peace-loving country and wants to maintain friendly relations with all neighbors. At the same time we cannot afford to ignore the strategic developments in the Indian Ocean region. We must respond adequately to any challenge to our security.

Mr Pant assured the members that the government will make available adequate resources for the development of our Navy. He disclosed that the government plans to build aircraft carriers, submarines, and other sophisticated vessels in the next 10 years.

Referring to the acquisition of nuclear powered submarine INS [Indian Navy Ship] Chakra, the defense minister said our Navy has entered a new era of nuclear propulsion.

Tripura Government Invokes National Security Act

BK181450 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] The Tripura government today invoked the National Security Act. This is to deal effectively with the antinational and antisocial elements and others inciting secessionism and communalism. This was disclosed by the state home minister, Mr Samir Ranjan Barman, to newsmen in Agartala this evening. He said the law-abiding citizens have nothing to fear from it.

Senior Akali Dal Leader Released From Jail

BK190334 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] In Punjab a BSF jawan [Border Security Force soldier] was killed and another injured when their jeep was ambushed by terrorists near village Malikpur in Gurdaspur District. The jawans were on patrol duty. About 20 terrorists were arrested in raids by the police in Gurdaspur, Patiala, and Ludhiana Districts.

Meanwhile, a senior leader of the Unified Akali Dal, Mr Jagdev Singh Talvandi, has been released on bail. He was arrested last June under the National Security Act.

DPRK Prime Minister Continues Visit

Holds Talks With Gandhi

BK181636 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] The prime ministers of India and Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK] held wide ranging discussions in New Delhi today on bilateral, regional and international issues. The delegations of the two countries, which met for about 90 minutes led by the prime ministers, noted that there is scope for expanding bilateral relations and indicated readiness to take steps in this direction. They also discussed regional issues of mutual interest.

The prime minister of the DPRK, Mr Yi Kun-mo, who arrived this morning, supported India's efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament, especially its contribution in the six-nation peace initiative. He welcomed India's policy of strengthening friendship with her neighbors. He described the Delhi Declaration signed by the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, and Mr Rajiv Gandhi as a landmark in ushering in peace and stability in the world. The DPRK side commended India for its achievements in the economic field.

Mr Yi Kun-mo handed over a letter to Mr Gandhi from his president inviting the prime minister to visit that country. The invitation has been accepted in principle and dates for the visit will be worked out through diplomatic channels.

Mr Gandhi congratulated the DPRK on the occasion of its 40th anniversary of independence celebrations in September this year. He asked Mr Yi Kun-mo to convey his good wishes to the DPRK leader, Mr Kim Il-song. Mr Gandhi also congratulated the DPRK prime minister for the intiative for organizing the conference on South-South cooperation in his country last year.

Gandhi Hosts Dinner

BK190330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said India and North Korea can and must work for the cause of disarmament. Speaking at a dinner hosted in New Delhi last night in honor of the visiting North Korean prime minister, Mr Yi Kun-mo, Mr Gandhi said the two countries should work together to create an international climate conducive to the developmental efforts. He urged the developing countries to come forward to share experience as this is essential for South-South cooperation. An important step for developing countries in achieving their collective objective is to strengthen bilateral relations.

Referring to the close and friendly ties between India and North Korea, Mr Gandhi said India has supported endeavors toward maintaining peace and stability in the Korean peninsula. He said it has been our consistent policy to encourage a peaceful solution without interference from outside.

Earlier, the two prime ministers held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional, and international issues. Mr Yi Kun-mo supported India's efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament, especially its contribution to the six-nation peace initiative. He described the Delhi Declaration signed by the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, and Mr Rajiv Gandhi as a landmark in ushering in peace and stability in the world. He welcomed India's policy of strengthening friendship with her neighbors.

Iran

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD191309 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The issues raised in today's Friday prayer ceremonies in Tehran are the subject of this hour's first news report:

In his prayer sermons, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani [spokesman for and member of the Council of Guardians], after offering his congratulations on the occasion of the blessed birth of his eminence Imam Muhammad Baqir—may God's peace be upon him—referred to the letter from the imam of the ummah to the president on the extent of the power and prerogatives of velayat-e faqih [rule of jurisconsult].

He said: In this regard we must, before all else, consult the Koranic chapter on the blessed prophet—may God's peace be upon him and his scion—and the immaculate imams—may God's peace be upon them—particularly the Lord of the pious. We must see how they dealt with social problems and what measures they took to overcome them. He stressed: The fact that society wants an Islamic government makes it incumbent upon us to implement this government on the basis of a series of prerogatives relating to the administration of the nation, which can be found in Islamic jurisprudence. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani then analyzed the crimes committed by the regime occupying Jerusalem in the land of Palestine and in the home of Muslims against Muslims, and referred to the closing down of the Palestinian office in New York by the U.S. Administration. He then said: Look at the misfortune in the Islamic world that arrogance brings upon Muslims! In fact, Muslims want to expel the thieves—who benefit from the support of the United States—from their homes. We have seen how the United States, which claims to be the symbol of civilization, closed down the Palestinians' office.

He then addressed the leaders of Arab countries. He said: You must reject the rule of arrogance and the U.S. Administration. Do not allow your countries to be kicked around like this. Turn back from the path you have chosen and join the Islamic Republic. Only then will your governments have dignity. For as long as you speak this way against Islam and the Islamic Republic, your misfortunes and hardships will continue to increase daily.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani referred to the anniversary of the Iraqi regime's vicious attack on an Iranian airline passenger aircraft, when a group of the country's officials, including Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahallati, representative of the imam in the IRGC, attained the status of martyrs. He offered his congratulations, condolences, and praise to all the families of these dear ones.

Tehran Notes Group Behind Higgins Kidnapping

LD181734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, in the wake of the kidnapping of a U.S. officer in southern Lebanon, an anonymous caller claiming to belong to the Islamic Revolutionary Guerrilla Organization [Sazeman-e Cherik'ha-ye Enqelabi-ye Eslami] announced in a telephone call to a news agency in West Beirut that the organization was responsible for the kidnapping of the U.S. officer. He pointed out that the kidnapped person was one of the directors of the U.S. intelligence organization, CIA, in southern Lebanon.

'Okinawa' Begins Moving Out of Persian Gulf

LD181717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, 2 days after the statement by the U.S. War [as heard] Department, the Pentagon, about dispatching four U.S. warships from the Persian Gulf, the warship "Okinawa" began moving out of the Persian Gulf toward the United States. A guided missile warship is escorting the USS "Okinawa," which began its passage toward the Strait of Hormuz this morning.

UK's Howe Fails To Persuade USSR on Embargo

LD182127 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Britain could not persuade the USSR authorities to formulate and speed up a plan for an arms embargo against Iran. The Central News Unit reports that British Foreign Secretary Geoffery Howe at the end of his tour of the USSR participated in a news conference and commented on his talks with officials of that country, including USSR leader Gorbachev, about plans for an arms embargo against Iran. Howe said that he had concluded that consultations should continue not only with the permanent members of the Security Council but also with other members.

Velayati Assesses Turkish Visit, USSR Ties

LD181228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] A press conference was held by 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, following his return from Turkey. Mr Velayati referred to his meetings with the Turkish prime minister, the head of parliament, the foreign minister, and the minister of state for economic affairs and said: Relations with Turkey after our revolution expanded in various dimensions to the extent that Turkey now ranks as Iran's third economic trading partner. The large number of exchanges of various delegations between the two countries have continued to help remove obstacles and difficulties.

He added: Turkish officials followed with interest issues related to Iran, including the Persian Gulf, the war between Iran and Iraq, and the UN issue. We were also interested in the problems between Turkey and Greece, noting the important differences between them. The two sides presented a report on the issues discussed and the exchanges of opinions that took place.

The foreign minister added: Talks were held regarding the economic protocol that was signed earlier between the two countries. It was decided that relevant experts in various ministries should continue their discussions, and that final conclusions should be reached in the next meeting between the prime ministers of the two countries.

Regarding the rumor that Prime Minister Ozal will visit Iran to mediate the war, Mr Velayati said: This is rumor comes from the foreign press and publications. Our positions on the war are clear: Discussions concerning the war are open to any country and discussions about the war do not mean that mediation is taking place. During the talks to be held in the near furture between the prime ministers of the two countries, various economic and political issues will certainly be covered.

In connection with the talks held between Mr Petrovskiy and officials of our country, Mr Velayati said to reporters: These talks turned out to be one of the friendliest and most positive talks held between the two countries. Relations between Iran and the Soviet Union, particularly during the past year, have improved and expanded. Mr Petrovskiy's visit, which took place on the anniversary of our country's Islamic Revolution, was a positive step in the political relations of the two countries and demonstrated the determination of the two countries to be friends, to strengthen relations, to safeguard their rights with mutual respect, and not to interference in each others' affairs.

Regarding the Soviet Union's project for its troops' phased withdrawal from Afghanistan, our country's foreign minister said: We consider this project to be a positive solution, and we hope that, just as Mr Gorbachev has announced, this move will take place as soon as possible. He emphasized: The only solution for Afghanistan's future is for the Muslim people of Afghanistan to have the right to determine their own destiny. The people and mujahidin of Afghanistan should not allow any forces to supplant the occupying forces after the latter have withdrawn. Moreover, in any negotiations, the people and mujahidin of Afghanistan should play the primary role.

With regard to the UN secretary general's plans and Iraq's obstructive moves, our country's foreign minister stated: Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar is under pressure from Iraq and the arrogant countries to press forward with his proposed project. We said from the beginning that we value his activities in connection with an honorable and just solution to the war. Stressing the point that the security of the region rests with the countries of the region, he said: Those countries that imagined security would be guaranteed with the arrival of foreign forces realized after a few months that what Iranian officials had said was correct and that talks between Iran and the six littoral states of the southern Persian Gulf will help in the realization of this point of view.

In conclusion, Mr Velyati added: The UAE Government is the link between Iran and countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and during the past weeks messages have been exchanged between Mr Rashid 'Abdallah, the UAE foreign minister, and myself.

Roads, Transport Minister Leaves for Turkey

LD181731 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, Azarbayjan Bakhtari Prov., Feb 18, IRNA—Minister of roads and transport, Mohammad Seyyed Kya left here for Turkey today to hold talks with his Turkish counterpart for transportation talks between the two countries. Before departure, Seyyed Kya said that the negotiations will be held in Van city and road transportation and railways will be the main topics of discussion.

Earlier today, Seyyed Kya inspected the construction work of Shahid Kalantari Highway across Lake Orumiyeh, this morning. The highway is expected to be provisionally used next year, according to the ministers.

IRNA Likens 'Uprising' to Islamic Revolution

LD190907 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 19 Feb 88

["Muslim Uprising Shakes Zionist Entity to Its Very Illegal Foundations—Commentary"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Feb 19, IRNA—Defence minister of the illegal Zionist entity Yitzhak Rabin has said that strict orders have been issued to Zionist troops to brutally quell the Muslims' uprising in occupied Palestine.

The Zionist regime's radio airing the above news further quoted Rabin as saying that Israeli troops have been instructed to fire on unarmed Palestinian Muslims. He unabashedly defended his barbaric move as necessary to protect the hard-pressed Zionist soldiers from danger.

The statement is hardly a surprise in view of the criminal nature of the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime. In fact it is perfectly in line with the wicked goals of the fascist Zionist regime which is always looking for excuses to slaughter more Palestinian Muslims by claiming falsely that the defenceless Muslims of Palestine are armed.

The uprising of Muslims in the occupied territories continues decisively and has entered the third month despite the use of brutal force by the heavily armed Zionist troops. The events have forced even the biased western media confess [as received] that the uprising has badly shaken the Zionist entity.

The ring leaders of the Zionist regime aware of the compromising attitude of the self-styled guardians of the oppressed Palestinian Muslims, used to arrogantly brag about their savage power and call occupied Palestine as an island of tranquillity, but were rudely shaken up by the wide-scale united uprising of Muslims there.

The Zionists, true to their brutal nature, tried to smash the uprising by sheer force and also unsuccessfully tried to sow discord among the local Palestinians, but the momentum of the uprising proved formidable this time because it is a popular movement inspired by Islam.

Although the world mass media is in the hands of Zionists but the intensity of the Zionist crimes against the Palestinian Muslims and the brutal methods for suppressing demonstrators are so severe that the media failed in hiding them thoroughly.

Disclosure of a very small part of the violence, even after severe censorships has had a profound impact on world public opinion.

The Palestinian uprising continues to soar every day and alongside it the repressive methods of violence by the Zionists finds new dimensions. The Zionist horrors are so great that recently the burying alive of Palestinian Muslims has come to light, and seems only a fraction of greater crimes.

A few days ago, a Zionist commander warned that Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are in possession of firearms and called the occupying Zionist forces to exercise caution and be on the alert to counter the allegedly armed Palestinian demonstrators.

Meanwhile, a female member of the Zionist parliament has described the uprising of the Palestinian Muslims as an "armed" one and has therefore exhorted the fascist

Zionist police to burst inside and search the Al-Aqsa' Mosque, the first Qiblah of Muslims, for what she said possible stocks of arms and munitions.

In addition to the panic and anxiety displayed by the Zionist regime over the Muslims' uprising, such false claims only prove that the uprising has entered a new stage.

Through these claims and warnings, the Zionist political and military officials are after pretexts to escalate their brutal attacks and to create a bloodbath in the occupied territories.

The trend of the uprising of the deprived Palestinian people especially during the recent months is very similar to that of the Islamic revolution in Iran. The similarity is obvious not only in the form but also in the context showing that the two revolutions are inspired by the same cause, that is Islam.

In such revolutions when the ruling regime intensifies violence, the Muslim people become more decisive so that when one falls down tens and perhaps hundreds stand up in his place until the time the revolution triumphs. Therefore, the Zionist regime would not gain anything by further use of force.

Popular governments, international conventions, Muslims, revolutionaries and freedom-lovers the world over must break their silence and ponder on these false claims and warnings by the Zionist regime which is only trying to justify its atrocities before the public opinion.

It is indeed a duty for the above-mentioned international bodies and individuals to defend the oppressed people of Palestine against the brutal attacks of the Zionist forces particularly that the revolutionary Palestinians are totally disappointed with the so-called leaders and supporters of the Palestinian cause who are trying to betray the uprising through compromise with the occupiers.

'Voice of Islamic Revolution' Cited on 'Arafat

NC180941 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] The Central News Unit, citing the Voice of the Palestinian Islamic Revolution, reports that the regime occupying Jerusalem, the United States, and Britain, as well as the regimes of Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] and Egypt, have lost all hope that 'Arafat can harness and control the Islamic movement of the Palestinian nation. This report, citing reports from Egypt, states that the discussion during an extraordinary joint meeting of the ambassadors of the United States, Saudi Arabia, Britain, the Zionist regime, and the regime of Hijaz at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry in Cairo in the presence of Butrus Ghali—who plays an important role in Egypt's foreign policy—centered on the need to find a Palestinian successor who can harness and control the Palestinian movement. According to this report, Western diplomats and officials of the regime occupying Jerusalem believe that because 'Arafat has been unable to maintain his relations with progressive and Islamic forces in the region, he has lost his effectiveness in controlling the situation among the Palestinians and, according to a U.S. diplomat, is today more like a square peg in a round hole.

The Voice of the Palestinian Islamic Revolution points out in this report that 'Arafat's efforts to control the situation and to harness the Palestinians' movement have proved useless so far. In addition, it reports that the call by 'Arafat's associates to the Palestinians to maintain calm for a period of 6 months and their claim that he will gain important concessions from the Zionist regime in exchange have gone completely unanswered. The report adds that 'Arafat's remarks that the Muslim Palestinian revolutionaries take orders from him cannot in any way encourage Israeli and U.S. diplomats and the so-called moderate Arab regimes because everyone knows that in fact he is playing no role in the Palestinians' recent movement. What disturbs 'Arafat most is the wave of hatred directed toward him from the Palestinian intellectuals and progressives. The progressive forces, the youths, and the young Palestinian generation, almost everyone, without exception, hold 'Arafat responsible for the Palestinians' (?problems) in the recent decades.

However, despite all of this, a joint threat has led to the emergence of understanding and deep feelings of sympathy between 'Arafat, the compromising Arab regimes, and the West. This joint threat is the Palestinians' strong inclination toward Iran's Islamic Revolution. Therefore, on the CIA's advice, rumors were concocted and disseminated recently in an attempt to diminish the Palestinians' inclinations toward Iran. The most blatant rumors concerned the expulsion of 30,000 Jews from Iran, as well as the rumored flight of an Israeli aircraft toward Iraqi borders using Hijaz airpsace. These rumors have been concocted in order to deceive the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, and to portray Iraq as anti-Zionist, and overshadow the Iranian nation's anti-Zionist struggles.

According to this report, following the CIA's advice to the editors-in-chief of the Western press, Western radios, as well as moderate Arab regimes, which was conveyed through the U.S. State Department's information branch, the international French radio, Radio Monte Carlo, Radio Iraq, Radio Amman, LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR, and the Hijaz-based 'UKAZ, in tandem and in coordination published these rumors, which some other Western and pro-Western mass media repeated. These rumors complement the planned arrival of the U.S. aircraft carrier "Bristol" to the Persian Gulf to participate in the attacks on Iran's oil interests and to intensify the suppression of the struggles of Muslim revolutionaries in Palestine and Lebanon.

Undoubtedly, Palestine, Lebanon, and Iran form the three sides of the triangle of revolution in the Middle East and are the focus of all plots by imperialism,

Zionism, and Arab reaction. This is taking place at a time when the supporters of the Islamic Jihad Organization for the Liberation of Palestine in the Gaza Strip have published handwritten statements announcing that the struggles of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine are part of the Islamic struggles of the Arab nation. Moreover, these struggles will continue until Jerusalem is liberated, colonialism eliminated, and all of the Arabs liberated from the clutches of Zionism and reaction.

Commentary on Imam's Recent Ruling

NC181333 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Unattributed commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Many important bills have been approved by the Majlis but subsequently rejected by the Council of Guardians, thus leaving them in abeyance. Important bills such as limits on the private sector, the law on cooperatives, the bill on distribution, the labor law, the bill on foreign trade, Article 3 of the law on agricultural lands, and Article 3 of the law on industries are among those laws whose implementation was suspended because of conflicting views between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians. Now, with the imam's recent decree, all these should be pulled out of the Majlis archives.

All of the laws that have remained in abeyance for the past few years play a very fundamental and basic role in the country's economy and executive system. For example, the bill on direct taxation, which is currently being discussed in the Majlis, has been reviewed several times and has gone through many changes. However, it has not yet been approved. It is hoped that it will be handed over to the country's executive officials this time for implementation.

Taxes play an important role in society in reaching objectives such as harnessing inflation, adjusting wealth, and closing the gap between the levels of income. The vacuum created by the lack of a new taxation law in recent years has had various impacts. Even though between 80-90 percent of the country's current budget should be ensured through taxes, and despite the fact that taxes increased by 14 percent in 1364 [year ending 20 March 1986] compared with 1363 [year ending 20 March 1985], nevertheless the income generated from taxes amounted to only 39 percent of the current budget. Another example is the labor law which the Majlis approved some time ago, and which the Council of Guardians rejected.

The absence of a new labor law has resulted in the fact that 9 years after the Islamic Revolution, the law governing employee-employer relations during the shah's regime continues to exist. The Islamic labor law, which has been revised, approved, and rejected several times can—if some problems are dealt with—play a very important role in the country's social-economic process. While discussing the characteristics of the Islamic labor law in a recent interview, the deputy labor minister stated that this law deals decisively with the methodical expulsion of workers, which was done very easily under the law that prevailed during the past regime, and ultimately recognizes the labor force as an important element in political, economic, and social activities. In other words, the worker is considered to be a human being, not just a machine. The Islamic labor law tries, in the best way possible, to defend the workers' rights with regard to employers.

Among the most important bills that continues to be held in abeyance and whose implementation is very important at this time is the bill regulating the distribution of commodities. This bill was approved—after 2 years of debates by 11 Majlis deputies—with some revisions in 1364 [year ending 20 March 1986], but was rejected by the Council of Guardians. This, in turn, led the minister of commerce to retrieve the bill from the Majlis. The objectives of this nine-article bill concerned efforts to increase domestic production and reduce consumption; to prevent hoarding, monopoly, high prices, wasteful methods of transporting goods, and anything that might lead to inflation or disturb distribution; to eliminate middlemen; and to utilize the potentials of the private sector, cooperatives, and the government sector in order to improve the policy of procurement and distribution. With such important objectives, it becomes clear that if this bill had been implemented, our Islamic society would possibly not be facing the weighty problems of distribution and inflation which stem from black markets and middlemen.

Among the other bills which have remained in abeyance and thus have led to many problems during recent years, is Paragraph 3 of tbe bill on (?agricultural lands). Hojjat ol-Eslam Fazel-Harandi, representative of the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in the Central Headquarters of the recently formed seven-man delegation, stated in an interview that the imam's recent decree clarifies the situation of the land that falls under Paragraph 3. The impact of this clarification regarding agriculatural development, which is the axis of the country's economic development, is acknowledged by everyone.

There are many such laws and draft bills that have ended up in the Majlis' archives because of differences of opinions between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians. With the approval of each of these, many of our Islamic society's problems can be solved. By clarifying the powers of the government, the imam of the ummah has placed a momentous responsibility on the shoulders of the assembly to determine government laws.

Bulgaria's Doynov, Delegation Arrive for Talks

Arrival Statement

LD131838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Ognyan Doynov, Bulgarian minister of heavy industries [title and ministry as heard], arrived in Tehran today at the head of a high-ranking economic delegation. He was welcomed by Behzad Nabavi, minister of heavy industries.

Upon arrival, the Bulgarian minister of heavy industries was interviewed by our correspondent. He said: The expansion of economic relations, particularly in the field of heavy industries, is among the objectives of this visit. He added: Thanks to efforts by and further contacts between the two countries, the export of manufactured goods and industrial goods from Iran to Bulgaria has increased. We are seeking new means for increasing our purchase of machines and industrial goods from Iran, as well as the export of industrial goods from Bulgaria.

As for exporting technology to Iran, he said: In this connection much effort has been concentrated on building aircraft, vessels, and machines, as well as new ceramics and metal-cutting tools. We are making cooperative efforts in the field of petrochemical technology. He added: The total figure of bilateral trade in the past Christian year amounted to over $300 million.

Trade Talks Open

LD141208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] The first round of talks between a Bulgarian delegation headed by Doynov, the Bulgarian heavy industries minister [no such ministry listed in bureau records], and an Iranian delegation headed by Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi, have opened. According to a Central News Unit report, the two sides discussed matters related to the production and export of goods such as trucks, machine-tools, lift trucks and cranes, ball-bearings, heavy machines, freight cars, and diesel engines. The two sides affirmed the expansion of bilateral economic, technological and industrial relations.

According to the same report, the experts of the two sides in the economic, technological, and industrial fields will discuss grounds for expanding relations and cooperation in technology and commerce, as well as coordinating economic and industrial relations.

It was decided that Iran will export various vehicles—Renault [only name as heard]—and minibuses, and ambulances, as well as shock absorbers, hand tools, bicycles, (?weights), and lift-truck chassis to Bulgaria. On the other hand, Iran will import lift-trucks, metals, and various industrial raw materials.

The Bulgarian heavy industries minister and his delegation met and conferred today with Roads and Transport Minister Mohammad Seyyed Kya. At the meeting, which was also attended by the managing director of the Shipping and Harbors Organization and the deputy minister in charge of roads and transport, the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest and cooperation in the fields of road transport, harbors, and air transport.

Meets With Foreign Minister

LD141829 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 88

[Text] Bulgarian Industries Minister [title as heard] Doynov, who is in Tehran, while conveying warm greetings of his country's foreign minister during a meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati today, described the relations between Iran and Bulgaria as good and positive, thanks to the fresh steps taken.

During the meeting, our country's foreign minister said the relations between Iran and Bulgaria are a good example of close relations between two countries. He thanked the Bulgarian industries minister for his efforts to expand technical and industrial cooperation between Iran and Bulgaria.

Meets With Industries Minister

LD151221 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] The Bulgarian minister of heavy industries [title as heard] who is in Tehran at the head of a delegation, declared during his talks with our country's industries minister that his country is ready to build small- and medium-size plants for the production of ceramics, glass, agricultural equipment, and pharmaceuticals in Iran.

During the talks it was agreed that, if possible, in return for delivering PVC to Iran, Bulgaria will purchase plastic goods made from PVC by Iran.

In expressing satisfaction over industrial cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the production of contacts for the electronics industries and of cigarettes, Industries Minister Shafe'i pointed out: In our country, priority is given to constructing plants whose required raw materials are readily available in Iran.

With regard to cooperation in the leather industry, which had been proposed by the Bulgarian delegation, he said: Using Bulgarian technology, the unused capacity of our country's shoe factories can be used.

He expressed interest in the expansion of trade between the two countries in the form of reexporting goods other than cigarettes.

The Bulgarian delegation pointed out that their country is ready to consider constructing glass factories, with a capacity of 100,000 tons a year.

Regarding mutual cooperation in laser industries, refineries, china, and ceramics production, the Bulgarian delegation welcomed the collaboration of Iranian industrial experts.

During the talks, mutual cooperation in metallurgy, copper refineries, and nonmetallic minerals, and also the exchange of minerals, were discussed and reviewed.

Visits Tabriz

LD161532 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Heading a delegation, which includes Bulgaria's ambassador to Iran and our country's Heavy Industries Ministry deputy for projects and planning, Bulgaria's heavy industries minister arrived in Tabriz this morning. He visited various sections of that city's industries in the company of the governor general of Azarbayjan-e Khavari Province.

In the course of these visits and following a meeting held in the machine tool manufacturing plant of Tabriz, the deputy minister for projects and planning of the Heavy Industries Ministry spoke with our correspondent. He referred to the cooperation of the two countries in connection with the expansion of Iran and Bulgaria's heavy industries and said: Bearing in mind the favorable conditions for cooperation between the two countries in the field of heavy industries, the Bulgarian delegation and Iranian experts made a close study of our country's tool manufacturing capabilities. They also studied the potential for expanding industrial production and increasing quantitative and qualitative efficiency in production. On the basis of their findings, they will submit some recommendations.

Meets With Musavi

LD171818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] This afternoon the Bulgarian minister of heavy industries, who is in Iran heading a delegation, met Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi. They exchanged views on ways to expand bilateral trade exchanges and economic relations.

During this meeting, the Bulgarian minister of heavy industries communicated to Musavi greetings from the Bulgarian prime minister and then he stressed his government's desire to expand economic relations, to enlarge trading exchanges, and to transfer advanced technology between Iran and Bulgaria.

Our prime minister then thanked Bulgaria for wanting to expand relations with Iran. Referring to the fact that there are no political obstacles to expanding relations, our prime minister expressed the hope that, with the upcoming visit of the Bulgarian prime minister to the Islamic Republic of Iran, relations between the two countries will expand and the volume of trade exchanges increase.

2d Round of Talks With Nabavi

LD181811 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA—Visiting Bulgarian Minister of Heavy Industries [title as received] Ognyan Doynov and his Iranian counterpart Behzad Nabavi in their second round of talks here Thursday discussed Tehran-Sofia technical and commercial cooperation.

The two also emphasized long-term cooperation between the two countries for manufacture of machine tools, trucks, lift-trucks and other heavy machinery. Among other topics discussed at the meeting was export of Iranian non-oil goods to Bulgaria.

Bulgarian and Iranian officials are to continue their talks on paving the way for signing of a Tehran-Sofia economic cooperation protocol. [passage omitted]

Meets With Oil Minister

LD181820 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA—Expansion of Tehran-Sofia economic and commercial relations was stressed during a meeting between visiting Bulgarian minister of electronics and machine building [title as received] Ognyan Doynov, and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, here today.

At the meeting it was decided that Iranian Oil Ministry experts inspect industrial sites in Bulgaria to get acquainted with the technological progress of that country. [passage omitted]

USSR Envoy Meets With Mines, Metals Official

LD181732 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA—Exports of lead and zinc concentrates to the Soviet Union and import of steel bars in return as well as issues relating to the Esfahan steel mill were discussed in the Soviet Ambassador Vladimir V. Gudev's meeting Deputy Mines and Metals Minister Sadeq Banab [name as received] today.

Gudev said that though the common interests of Tehran-Moscow relations have been determined, the measures taken by both sides so far have failed to keep pace with the demands. He added the two countries should take necessary steps to expand mutual cooperation. He expressed his country's keen interest to have more cooperation with Iran's mines and metals sector.

Banab, the deputy for economic and commercial affairs, said in response although the prospect of mutual exchanges and economic relations has been hopeful during the recent years, it was not quite satisfactory. He called for expanded efforts with regards to the existing possibilities.

Abedi-Ja'fari in Poland for Economic Session

For further reportage on Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari's visit as a member of a joint economic delegation session visiting Poland, see the Polish section of the 18 February Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Musavi Inaugurates Casting Plant, University

LD181724 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi inaugurated a casting unit, with a production capacity of 30,000 tons a year, here Thursday.

An official of the unit said that the plant could compensate its dollar 40 million cost within a year, if it operates on its maximum capacity.

Prime Minister Musavi described the implementation of such industrial projects, at a time of economic blockade, as important. It is a firm testimony to the people's heroic resistance against pressures and conspiracies of foreign powers, he added.

He said that Iranian experts have proved that they are not dependent on Western technology and culture any more but are quite capable of carrying out such important industrial projects despite the current circumstances. The test production of the unit started last September.

Later today, the premier inaugurated Hesarak teacher training university and a scientific and research center in western Tehran.

Islamic Guidance Minister Discusses Hajj

LD181740 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 18 Feb 88

["Hajj Pilgrimage Renewal of Allegiance to God Not to U.S.—Says Khatami"—IRNA headline] txt
[Text] Semnan, Feb. 18, IRNA—Plan and arrangements for the dispatch of over 150,000 Iranian pilgrims for this year's Hajj pilgrimage have been prepared said minister of ulture and Ershad-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance), Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami, here today.

Khatami, referring to the recent statements of the Saudi interior minister calling for a decrease in the number of Hajj pilgrims, said that Riyadh should not bother with numbers but should return to Islam and give up imposition of policies of world oppression and anti-Islamic powers during the Hajj.

The problem will be solved only when the Saudi regime returns to Islam and holds the Hajj in accordance with the law of God and the traditions of Prophet Mohammad (SAW), he made it clear.

The guidance minister, reminding that Hajj pilgrimage should be a center for fostering Islamic unity, said that a revolution which has dedicated so many martyrs for Islam will definitely carry out Hajj rituals as commanded by God and taught by the Prophet (SAW) irrespective of whether the United States and its subservients like it or not.

'Islamic Unity' Conference Communique Detailed

LD191021 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 19 IRNA—A two day international conference on Islamic unity declared in a comprehensive communique adopted on the concluding day Thursday that the Iraqi regime's invasion of Iran after unilaterally scrapping the Algiers Agreement was an act of aggression.

"The devastating war has claimed well over one million lives of Muslim people on both sides, destroyed property worth hundreds of billions of dollars, struck such a heavy blow to the economies and infrastructure that they will take a long time to recover, and opened the gates of intervention by the USA, the USSR, the UK, France and other Western countries in the Persian Gulf," said the communique.

It invited the leaders of the Islamic ummah to urge Iran and Iraq to bring about immediate cessation of hostilities and to create a mechanism for resolving the issues created by the war, including meeting damages of war and problems of human and economic rehabilitation.

The communique demanded immediate withdrawal of the U.S., the USSR, the British and other naval forces from the Persian Gulf. The conference also called upon the Islamic Council and its secretary general to establish a commission to realise the goals of the present conclave.

It congratulated the Afghan mujahidin for their "heroic struggle against the Soviet aggressor and its local collaborators in defence of their faith, freedom and independence."

The communique held the Soviet Union directly responsible for the enormous loss of Afghan lives, grievous physical injuries, widespread destruction of private and public property, all-round misery and consequential damages.

The conference expressed concern over the continued denial of the right of self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir as agreed upon in the partition agreement of India in 1947 and reaffirmed in the resolutions of the Security Council. It appealed to the Muslim governments and people to support the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their "just struggle."

The communique saluted Palestinian brothers and sisters, especially young boys and girls, for their bold spirited and heroic struggle against Israeli occupation forces—a struggle which restored to the Palestinian cause its true Islamic nature as the greatest jihad of the ummah and which had inspired and awakened all the Muslims of the world to greater support for Palestine.

It condemned Israel's brutal behaviour resulting in the indiscriminate killing of men, women and children, arrogant defiance of world opinion and U.N. resolutions.

It called upon the Western nations to further condemn the Israeli atrocities and called especially on the U.S. to end its blind support of the Zionist imperialist state, a support which encourages Israel to flout all norms of civilised behaviour, wantonly violate international laws and conventions, inflict barbarities of the worst kind on innocent people, and commit aggression against Muslim peoples and states. The communique urged the Muslim governments and their people to intensify and better coordinate their efforts in support of the Palestinian cause and for return of Al-Quds [Jerusalem] under Islamic control and sovereignty and the liberation of Palestine.

It cautioned them to beware of the ongoing efforts to hold the Middle East peace conference becoming a goal in itself rather than a means to a just and genuine settlement of the Palestine issue. They must not allow it to be a conspiracy for the extension of the Camp David pattern.

The communique condemned the persecution of Muslims in Eritrea and viewed with concern the plight of Muslim minorities in different parts of the world, particularly the "repressive policies" of the governments of India, the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Burma, the Philippines, Ethiopia and Yugoslavia towards Muslim citizens.

The communique called on the Muslim governments and people to take necessary steps for the protection of the rights of the minorities to support the Muslim resistance in Eritrea in the achievement of their goals and appealed to the Muslim parties in the Western Sahara and Chad-Libya wars to desist from hostilities, settle the disputes and restore peace and unity to the area.

Addressing the second day of the conference Wednesday, Mawlana Sa'id Sha'ban leader of Tawhid Movement of Lebanon said the entire world knows that Iraq is the aggressor and hence "we should not be shy of declaring it so."

He also said the biggest obstacle in the way of forging complete Islamic unity was the present Arab regimes. He said unless these regimes become Islamic, there can be no unity.

Dr. 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, leader of Al-Jihad Organisation of Egypt, who gave the "fatwah" (religious decree) on the assassination of Anwar al-Sadat, said the ummah should declare jihad against the present so-called Islamic regimes which are not being ruled according to the Shari'ah.

He supported the Islamic Republic of Iran and condemned Iraq saying the on-going (Iraq-Iran) war was meant to halt the expansion of Islam to other countries from Iran. He said almost all present Arab regimes are "agents of the United States of America and should be toppled."

Another speaker of the second day was Iran's Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, head of the Islamic Propaganda Organisation who said the on-going war between Iran and Iraq was a war between Islam and infidels. "This war is a conspiracy against the Islamic revolution," he said.

He said Iran was a victim of aggression and it is not fair to demand peace in the region without specifying punishment for the aggressor. "We will never accept such injustice," he stressed.

Ayatollah Jannati said those who speak for peace between Iran and Iraq should talk of peace in accordance with the commandments of Koran and Sunnah. He said Iraq represents those who are working against Islam. "It is the imperative duty of the Muslims to support all their brethren who are facing foreign domination and struggling against it. Enemies of Islam and aggressors' forces are losing weight day by day," he said.

Mawlawi Yunis Khalis, chief of the seven-party alliance of Afghan mujahidin based in Pakistan, said when the sinister designs of the Soviet Union failed to realise, it announced withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan. It is a great victory for the Afghan people, he said, adding that it is up to them to choose the type of government in their homeland. He said the mujahidin can administer their own affairs.

He said the endeavour to impose Zahir Shah on Afghan people is another conspiracy against Afghanistan and felt that such tactics would foil the spirit of "Jihad".

In the morning session the conference condemned the criminal assassination of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mehdi Hakim a "torch bearer of Islamic Revolution in Iraq and ambassador of unity among Muslims."

Hoof, Mouth Disease Outbreak Reported

LD180954 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture announces: Due to an outbreak of hoof and mouth disease among cattle in one of the country's western provinces and in order to prevent its spread and to protect livestock in other parts of the country, the Ministry has instituted quarantine regulations throughout the country based on Article 5 of the national law regarding animal husbandry.

Therefore, until further notice, with the assistance of security officials, any movement of livestock or dairy products is banned. All livestock breeders are asked to pay full attention to hygenic principles, refrain from any transportation or movement of cattle, and cooperate with officials of the Animal Husbandry Department by vaccinating their livestock.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,116

LD181655 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites east of Basra at 13:40 and 13:55 hours local time (10:18 and 10:25 GMT) Thursday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy. All the attacking fighters returned safely to bases.

The 3116th Joint Staff communique, announcing the above, reported here today that the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Wednesday in support of the Navy.

Iran's naval units decisively continued their patrol missions in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday but traced no suspicious cases of cargo shipment to Iraq.

On the war fronts, exchange of artillery and mortar fire between Iran's Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops continued all over the battlefields Wednesday with the former holding the upper hand.

An Iraqi patrol convoy, attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Sumar, Western sector, sustained several casualties and was forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire yesterday.

Iranian gendarmerie forces traded heavy artillery fire with Iraqi troops in parts of the southern and western fronts Wednesday, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on the enemy," concludes the communique.

Irbil Deputy Governor Captured

LD181854 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, Feb, 18, IRNA—In a daring raid peshmergas of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) took captive deputy governor of Irbil Province 'Abdallah Khafaf and an economic affairs' official of the northeastern Iraqi province, Muhammad Mustafa Amin, over the past two days.

Ramadan Headquarters the guerrilla warfare center of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) said that PUK forces captured the two Ba'thist officials in a surprise attack.

Pakistan

Mujahidin Leaders Meet With Ziaul Haq 16 Feb

BK170257 Hong Kong AFP in English 0051 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 16 (AFP)—Afghan resistance top leaders held a meeting with President Muhammed Ziaul Haq at the presidential residence here Tuesday, resistance sources said. The leaders, who included Muhammad Yunis Khalis of the seven-party Afghan mujahidin's alliance, were here in connection with a privately organised two-day Islamic unity conference that was inaugurated by President Ziaul Haq. The leaders were the Pakistani president's dinner guests, the sources said.

It was not known what transpired at the meeting which is given importance in view of the forthcoming Geneva talks on resolving the Afghan issue and Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The resistance leaders, who are not represented at the U.N.-sponsored Geneva talks, have refused to accept any ceasefire until a broad-based mujahidin government was installed in Kabul. The rebels, having rejected that former Afghan King Zahir Shah be an acceptable future leader, were now engaged in finalising their recommendations on an interim government.

A Foreign Office spokesman here called upon the Soviet Union to synchronise the withdrawal with a change of the Kabul regime if peace is to be restored in Afghanistan.

Mr. Khalis will address the conference Wednesday on behalf of the Afghan mujahidin whose "heroic struggle" was praised by the Saudi-funded body's secretary general, Salim Azan.

Both Saudi and Iranian representatives joined the call for Islamic unity and President Zia told the conference that unity of Islamic nations could not be achieved until the Gulf war ended.

President on Need for Interim Afghan Government

BK190250 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the Afghan issue can be resolved through a comprehensive settlement by setting up an interim government in Afghanistan. Addressing the anniversary celebration of the Pashto daily HEYWAD in Peshawar last night, he said that without the establishment of an interim government, the process of a phased withdrawal from Afghanistan is not possible. He commended the Afghan nation's struggle and said more than 1.2 million Afghan people have sacrificed their lives to achieve independence for their country.

The president commended the NWFP people for providing assistance to the Afghan brethren in the spirit Islamic brotherhood. He said the role played by the NWFP journalists to inform the people is laudable. The presided added that the press should play a positive role in national construction and should promote solidarity, harmony, patriotism, and national unity for this purpose. The president said the government wants to promote the growth of regional newspapers along with the national newspapers.

The president announced the establishment of a welfare trust for Peshawar journalists with an initial fund of 1 million rupees.

Election Preparations To Take 'About a Year'
BK190344 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Chief Election Commissioner Mr Justice S.A. Nusrat has said that the Election Commission has so far registered 28 political parties and applications from 7 other parties are being considered. Talking to newsmen in Quetta yesterday, he expressed satisfaction at the existing powers of the election commission.

The chief election commissioner said new electoral rolls were prepared last October and the second phase of preparations for the general elections is the delimitation of constituencies. When asked as to how much time the commission will take for the preparation of the general elections, he said the entire process will be completed in about a year.

Briefs

Gwadar Harbor Construction

Work on the construction of a small harbor in Gwadar will begin in about a month. This project will cost about 950 million rupees. The minister of state for communications, Sardar Fateh Mohammad Hasni, told newsmen in Quetta yesterday that the project will be completed in 3 years. He also said that work on establishing a microwave link between Karachi and Peshawar via Quetta and Dera Ismail Khan will be completed in 2 months. Ninty-eight percent of the work on this project has already been completed. [Text] [*Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Feb 88*]

Sri Lanka

Main Opposition Party To Boycott Elections
BK190716 Hong Kong AFP in English 0703 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Feb 19 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's main opposition party Friday said it would boycott provincial council elections implementing a New Delhi-backed peace pact in the Tamil separatist conflict.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party [SLFP] led by former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike, is opposed to the July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which gives greater autonomy to the island's two million Tamil minority.

Somasara Dassanayake, the party's general secretary, said the party will, however, press for parliamentary elections.

The ruling United National Party won the last parliamentary elections here in 1977 and has remained in power following a December 1982 referendum extending parliament's term for another six years without general elections.

Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel resigned last month after saying the government had no moral right to be in office having failed to hold elections for a decade.

SLFP sources said they were divided on the elections issue with members from rural areas wanting to contest local elections, but the policy-making Central Committee was against it.

The main Tamil political group too has said that it "disapproves" of Colombo's move to hold council elections before merging the Northern Province and Eastern Province into a single council.

But, acording to the accord, the two councils will be temporarily united and a referendum is to be held in a year to decide if people in the multi-ethnic Eastern Province want to continue the merger with the Tamil-dominated Northern Province.

It was not immediately clear if the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) would boycott the elections.

The government Wednesday announced that nominations for council elections will be received in the first week of March. According to election laws, polling must take place within eight weeks of receiving nominations. [passage omitted]

Election Commission Calls For Nominations
BK170859 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0844 GMT 17 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 17 (LANKA PUWATH)—The Sri Lankan Commission of Elections yesterday called for nominations for the election of members to the nine provincial councils, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) announced in its news bulletin this afternoon.

Each administrative district is an electoral area for the purpose of the provincial council elections.

In the Western Province, the number of members to be elected will be 102, Central Province 56, Southern Province 53, Northern Province 36, Eastern Province 35, North Western Province 50, North Central Province 31, Uva 32, and Sabaragamuva 42.

Nominations will be received on the basis of each of the 25 administrative districts during office hours by each of the returning officers at their respective offices from 2d of March to 12 noon on the 9th of March.